

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, April 17, 2014

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What's On

Entertainment and television listings

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Petition has saved pub from demolition

A PUB which looked destined to be demolished and replaced with a convenience store has reopened following a community campaign.

Two applications were tabled to demolish The Swan Inn, in Halesowen, by owners Punch Taverns to allow a shop to be built in its place.

But following a protest by residents, including a petition of 700 signatures, the first proposal by the pub chain firm was dropped, and the second was thrown out by Dudley Council.

Talks

Beer is back on tap at the pub after it reopened again under experienced licensees Polly and Mark Johnson, however they claim it may change hands again in two months.

Punch Taverns confirmed talks were ongoing with a view to secure a new buyer to take over the pub in Long Lane.

Mrs Johnson said: "Punch Taverns asked us to come in here and reopen the pub, and we've loved it here, but we're now being told we are to leave in eight weeks.

"It's a real shame because since being here we have seen the customers come back and I think it was starting to do well again, but what can you do."

Four arrests in police raids

FOUR men arrested after police swooped on a gang suspected of burglaries at nearly 70 homes across the West Midlands have been bailed.

Officers carried out the operation on nine addresses last week and three men aged in their 20s were arrested at a travellers site on Oak Lane, Kingswinford. Police said all three had now been bailed until May 23.

A 48-year-old man arrested from a caravan in Heath Town has also been bailed until the same date.

STREETS APART OVER CLOSURE

Tributes are paid to former councillor

TRIBUTES have been paid to a former Sandwell councillor and community campaigner who has died at the age of 59.

Mary Docker served as a councillor from 2004 to 2012 in Blackheath, where she worked as a market trader, running the Moonbeam Textiles stall. She was also former deputy leader of Sandwell's Conservative opposition party before losing her seat.

The mother-of-two had been chairman of the Blackheath Business and Community Association.

She died the weekend a few weeks short of her 60th birthday, after losing her battle with cancer.

Former Sandwell Conservative leader Ray Nock said: "My family and I have lost a good friend."

"Sandwell has lost one of the last real Conservative councillors, who always put people before her own ambitions."

James Morris, Tory MP for Halesowen & Rowley Regis, added: "It is difficult to sum up the enormous contribution that Mary made in Blackheath over so many years, as a councillor, with the Business and Community Association and through all her other community activities. I will miss her frank and helpful support greatly."

Plea to open hard shoulder

THE hard shoulder of the M5 should be opened up to traffic to boost the wider West Midlands economy, according to the area's business leaders.

Hold-ups on the roads are currently costing business £2.2 billion per year in higher costs, lost business and reduced productivity.

Evidence from West Midlands supplier delivery times shows the area is suffering, according to the Local Enterprise Partnerships across the region.

A ROAD will be closed permanently to traffic as part of a controversial £10,000 scheme which has divided residents near Buffery Park.

Campaigners claim highways bosses are 'out of order' by backing a project which they claim has made their lives a misery.

Blackacre Road, near Buffery Park, has been shut in recent months as part of a trial scheme after people living in the road claimed it was being used by motorists as a 'rat run'.

They said traffic was using the road as a shortcut to get to Dudley Southern Bypass, claiming more than 6,000 vehicles were using the narrow street per day.

Outrage

Dudley Council's highways officials closed the road to through traffic but this sparked outrage from residents living on side streets around Buffery Park.

They objected to the scheme, claiming it had only served to push traffic onto their side streets. They fear for the safety of children using the park.

The council's highways chief, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, has agreed to make the move permanent.

He said: "Blackacre Road has been a very complicated issue and we have had to make sure we did not rush into anything."

"We consulted widely on the proposals which revealed residents Blackacre Road, who were directly affected, wanted the road to remain closed for through traffic.

"It shows we have listened carefully to what people have had to say and acted on this important information.

There were also two petitions totalling 90 signatures asking for Blackacre Road to remain shut.

Black Country gran has got talent



The dramatic routine by Sarah, aged 79, and her 40-year-old partner Nico Espinosa on the BGT stage

SALSA dancing granny Sarah 'Paddy' Jones has her sights set on the Britain's Got Talent crown. She and partner Nico's stunning performance on TV saw them put her straight through to the semi-finals.

The 79-year-old, originally from Stourbridge, amazed celebrity judges as she was thrown around the stage by partner Nico.

Paddy's performance was so good that it produced the first use of a 'golden buzzer', pressed by Amanda Holden, which puts her straight through to the live shows.

The dance, which began slowly before exploding into life, did not get off to the best start as hard-to-please Simon Cowell

pushed his red buzzer and yawned. But he was left agape as he watched her doing splits and tumbles and swung around by Nico who, at 40, is almost half her age. After Simon told her: "Wow, I apologise for what I did because I did buzz a little early before all the crazy things happened. It was extraordinary."

Paddy, who used to run Paddy's Fabrics in Coventry Street, danced from the age of two but gave it up to have her four children. She moved to Spain with husband David where he died of leukaemia, and she started dancing again at classes run by Nico. The pair won the Spanish version of Britain's Got Talent in 2009 and a 10,000 Euro prize.



Sarah 'Paddy' Jones



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HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



51-53, Queen Street
Wolverhampton

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Homes go-ahead at former school site

PLANS for a housing development on part of the site of a former school in Cradley have been given the go-ahead.

The proposals have been submitted by William Davis Limited which wants to build nine homes on the northern part of the old Cradley High School site.

It comes as work continues on a nearby £18 million retirement

village, which will have 120 apartments. It is being built on the main part of the site which was left vacant when the school was demolished in 2010.

A planning application for the homes has been approved by Dudley Council after being supported by officers.

The development will be made up of five detached houses and two

pairs of semi-detached houses. They will all be two-storey and finished in brick and tile.

One letter of objection raised concerns about the new houses being out of character with the surrounding area and fears about an increase in traffic.

A report by planning officer Pete Reed said: "This is a reserved matters application for the erection of

nine dwellings that follows on from the granting of outline planning permission for the erection of dwellings on the site as part of the application for the redevelopment of the wider site. The approved means of access will be provided through an extension to Ormande Close."

Midland Heart is building the retirement village, expected to be completed next spring.

Asbestos led to the death of machinist

A WOMAN who spent her life working as a machinist died from an illness caused by inhaling asbestos.

Patricia Harris from Lower Gornal died at New Cross Hospital on June 16 while undergoing treatment for mesothelioma in her lungs. The condition occurs as a result of exposure to asbestos. The 72-year-old of Maple Drive had been diagnosed with the cancer.

A statement from her daughter Susan Thompson was read at the inquest at Smethwick Council House. She wrote: "She inhaled asbestos dust from metal lagged pipes while she was working at Clifford and Sons in Lower Gornal. During the 1950s and 60s she also worked at Mander Brothers where she said she came into contact with asbestos dust. When she was at Clifford and Sons she worked the presses herself and there were a lot of asbestos lagged pipes and asbestos overhead."

A post-mortem found she died of pneumonia brought on by mesothelioma that developed after she inhaled asbestos. Senior Coroner Robin Balmain concluded that she had died of an industrial disease due to exposure to asbestos.

It's lucky 13 at house team

A COUNCIL housing team are proving thirteen is a lucky number after winning their 13th consecutive gold award for safety.

The housing service's construction team at Dudley Council are among the winners in the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Occupational Health and Safety Awards 2014.

The President's Award for 1 consecutive golds will be presented during a ceremony at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel, at the National Exhibition Centre, on May 15.

Cuppa for charity

A CHARITY coffee morning will take place at Oldbury Library on Thursday, April 24, in aid of a local hospice.

The fundraiser will run from 10am until 11.30am and money raised will go to Acorns Children's Hospice.

For details call 0121 552 5933.

Town centre route will open again to all traffic

A £650,000 scheme to open up a main route through Dudley town centre to all traffic for the first time in 12 years has been approved.

It's hoped the scheme in King Street will be a welcome boost for traders and shops and aid the town's regeneration.

At the moment only buses and taxis can use the route and motorists wishing to drive from one side of King Street to the other are diverted in a loop around Flood Street car parks to the rear of King Street.

Under the proposals, the road will be re-opened to all traffic, which the council says will have improved access to the town centre including the Churchill shopping precinct.

It will allow businesses to make the most of passing trade, bosses say. The project will also see the creation of four new parking spaces. They will be free to use for up to an hour and it's hoped they will encourage people to shop locally.

Listened

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We have listened to the views of local traders and are planning to make King Street two-way for traffic.

"The scheme will help local businesses and improve traffic flow through the town, while maintaining facilities for bus passengers with a dedicated bus lane."

And volunteers in Halesowen thought they should try to emulate their success while also helping to promote community spirit in the town.

Entry organiser Eve O'Connor, who is manager at Cornbow Shopping Centre in Halesowen, urged more people to get involved in forthcoming activities, which include a litter pick.

King Street will be opened between its junction with New Mill Street/Union Street and Flood Street/Hall Street.

Around 60 businesses and residents were consulted. The council received 10 responses with seven in favour and three against.

Traffic jams inspired author



First time author Tom Butler, AKA Tommy Trucker, with his horse racing thriller Caught TRUCKER and author Tom Butler found inspiration for his debut published novel while clogged in traffic at the wheel of his lorry.

Mr Butler is starting on a journey which he hopes will make his dreams of a literature career come true.

His book, called Caught, which is a thriller set in the world of National Hunt horse racing, has hit the book shelves.

Tom, aged 62, of Dudley Road, Wall Heath, has always had a love for writing,

even while he served a three decade long career with Lloyds Bank. For 13 of those years he worked as a chief cashier at the Wolverhampton branch.

But after deciding to leave, he started up his own light haulage company called 'Tommy Trucker' working for firms across the Midlands. Life on the open road was proving quite the tonic for Tom who has been able to devote more time to his writing.

Visit www.bookguild.co.uk/caught-pr-1424 for more details on his book.

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Tasty tiger will be star attraction

A LIFE-SIZED cake in the shape of Dudley Zoo's Sumatran tiger Daseep will be a star attraction when new store Oak Furniture Land opens its doors at Merry Hill retail park on Saturday.

The tiger head cake has been made by Midlands cake artist Annabel de Vetter of Conjurers Kitchen and will be on show at the store from 9 to 10.30am.

To celebrate opening the store will also be having an Easter sale on selected items.

PHP buys Lion centre for £8.5m

PRIMARY Health Properties has bought the new Lion Health Centre in Stourbridge for £8.5 million.

PHP, which has a regional base in Worcester, specialises in investing in health sector properties.

It originally purchased the site including the historic Foster and Rastrick foundry in Bradley Road in 2012.

Construction of the new 27,986 sq ft health centre began in the autumn of 2012.

Dementia charity night at the bingo

A BINGO night will be held to raise money for Sandwell's Better Understanding of Dementia charity at Mecca Oldbury from 6pm on Saturday. Money raised will be split between the running cost of BUDS, which supports dementia sufferers, and Birmingham Midland Eye Centre.

People attending can pay £20 for a bingo, a meal and bottle of bubbly. Call 0121 565 3721.

Second chance to discover pondlife

A SECOND pond activity session at a nature reserve in Halesowen has been organised due to high demand.

Children can discover the mini beasts in The Leasowes ponds during the event on Wednesday, April 23, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Booking is essential by calling (01384) 814642. Meet at the warden's base.

New store opens

A NEW homeware store has opened its doors at the Merry Hill shopping centre creating 30 new jobs.

Danish chain Tiger says it will offer 'quality, inexpensive' items from its new store.

Tragedy as son chokes to death in his sleep

A MAN died after choking in his sleep while heavily sedated, an inquest heard.

Jon Birks was found unconscious in his bedroom by his family at their home in Pensnett on October 19 last year. Ambulance crews were called but he was declared dead at the scene.

The hearing at Smethwick Council House heard that the 27-year-old, of Heydon Road, had been taking sedatives to help him sleep and had been drinking alcohol the night before he died.

His mother Angela Keilty discovered his body. She told the hearing: "He has choked on his food before and was found just in time by a member of the family and spent three days in hospital. I said to him that night not to eat too late because he knew what had happened before."

A post mortem carried out by Dr Swapan Ghosh, consultant pathologist at Russells Hall Hospital, found that the 27-year-old had food trapped in his windpipe that had caused him to choke to death.

A high quantity of Quetiapine was in his system, more than six times the normal dose, which he had been given by doctors to help him sleep. Dr Ghosh said the sedative was a contributing factor in his death.

Crackdown on rogue traders

TRADING standards officers have joined forces with the police to crack down on rogue traders.

Operation Rogue Trader saw a team of police and trading standards officers carry out a day of action at hotspots in Sandwell, including Cradley Heath. Eleven of 12 traders spoken to by officers were genuine but one ran away before his credentials could be verified.

Sandwell Trading Standards manager Bob Charnley said: "We are sending out a clear message to rogue traders that their activities will not be tolerated."

Shakespeare on sea

DRAMA group Side-by-Side are rehearsing their version of William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. The Stourbridge company have renamed the play Illyria-on-Sea, to be staged at Stourbridge Town Hall from June 25 to 28. Tickets from The French Deli.

Bunnygirl reveller attacked train passengers



Dressed as a bunny girl, Tanya Oakley

SHE described herself as '10 out of 10' on a scale of drunkenness when she attacked two train passengers she believed were laughing at her - while she wore a bunny girl costume.

Mother-of-four Tanya Oakley thought she had heard a 'disparaging comment' at her expense as she travelled on a train at Birmingham Moor Street after a night of clubbing. The 26-year-old believed a group of people were 'laughing at her'.

She went down the carriage and swung at one woman's mouth and yanked the hair of another, Birmingham Magistrates Court

was told. Oakley, of Best Street, Cradley Heath, was given a conditional discharge lasting 18 months after admitting two charges of common assault on November 2 last year. The train driver was disturbed by the fracas and went back into the carriage to tell everyone to calm down, before telling those involved to get off.

The group including the two women Oakley attacked - who had also been out clubbing - got off the train but Oakley's group jumped back on to continue the journey.

Oakley later saw a CCTV picture of herself which had been released to the media

by police and called officers. Mr Jonathan Purser, prosecuting, said: "In interview she said she left the club with her friends at 5am and on a scale of 1-10 of intoxication, she said she was about a 10."

"At the conclusion of the interview she said she was ashamed of what she had done."

Mr Darryl Foster, defending, said Oakley was 'distraught' at what had happened as she was not a habitual drinker and had 'just gone out to let her hair down'.

Oakley was ordered to pay £25 compensation to the two women she assaulted, as well as £50 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Police hunt thug who used syringe on victim

A NEEDLE carrying thug is being hunted by police after a woman was attacked by a man holding a syringe during a terrifying lunchtime incident in Blackheath.

Police have only recently released details of the attack which left the 28-year-old deeply distressed during weeks of medical tests.

She had driven to Blackheath High Street to Gregg's bakery and, as she left, a man who was on his phone and wearing a Sandwell Homes jumper, bumped into her.

Punched

ARMED services veterans entitled to badges and medals are being urged to come forward to have their awards presented to them at Armed Forces Day.

Dudley Council has teamed up with Forces Recruitment Services for the event at Himley Hall on June 29, from 11am to 5pm, to include a presentation of medals and badges by the Mayor of Dudley.

John Polychronakis, chief executive at Dudley Council, said: "The event goes from strength to strength each year and we hope this year is no exception. The most important part of the day is celebrating the achievements of local veterans and I would urge anyone entitled to a HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge, Arctic Star and Bomber Command Clasp to come forward and have their badges and medals presented on the day."

Anyone who has already received a armed forces badge but has not had it formally presented to them before, can contact Dudley Council on 01384 818186 to be part of the ceremony.

Call Sandwell Police on 0100 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

England fans' goal is World Cup anthem



World Cup songwriters Ken and Deb Harris with singer Jon Allen are seeking online support from England fans

SONGWRITERS Ken and Debbie Harris are hoping to represent England fans' World Cup hopes in song with one of five tunes they have entered in a contest to find an anthem for Brazil 2014.

The couple, from Shepherds Brook Road, Lye, are now urging Black Country people to kick-start their 2014 World Cup song bid by voting for one of their entries online.

Their song Whole Wide World is proving popular in the ratings for the

competition to find a song for Brazil 2014. The pair, both 41, write under the name of Stormforce Music and are football fans, with Ken supporting Arsenal and teaching assistant Debbie following England.

"Our latest song — Here We Go Again — should strike a chord with many England supporters," said Ken, who works in IT.

"I'm proud of this song because we believe fans can relate to it after all the years of disappointment."

"Yes, we have a lot of heartbreak over the many years since 1966, but there is always hope. I've been an England fan all my life. The ultimate dream would be for a music publisher to come along to make it the unofficial England song."

The songs were recorded at Raindance Music Studio, Stourbridge. Whole Wide World is sung by Jon Allen, from Brierley Hill.

The competition works on rankings at www.worldcupsong.com/index.htm

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



MORE on the seven-a-day fruit and vegetable debate. One reader asks whether knowing a Swede counts as one portion. Another reader tells me his lifestyle should qualify as a few portions. He is a couch potato.

□□□□□□

ANY bets on how long this fad for seven portions of fruit and vegetables will last before some scientist discovers a dramatic increase in human flatulence is destroying the ozone layer?

□□□□□□

SO FAREWELL, Maria Miller. All along, David Cameron insisted the former culture secretary had "done the right thing" when he, she and the whole world knew that the only right thing was resignation. A reader says he recalls that back in 1975 the rock group Queen foresaw David Cameron's long and pointless defence of Miller with a line in Bohemian Rhapsody: "Ms Miller, no! / We will not let her go." Yes, it was something like that.

□□□□□□

TONY Blair says politicians should be prepared to start wars – even if the people are against it. He believes the opposition of the people "doesn't invalidate the necessity to intervene." This is breath-taking stuff. If a government goes to war when the people are against it, in whose name are you dropping those bombs? Whose interests are you serving – the interests of an American president, perhaps? Blair is a great gift to conspiracy theorists. When you hear him speak, you could almost believe this world is run in the interests of New World Order organisations like the Illuminati or global banking. What a scary man he is. I interviewed him four times. Never liked him. Never understood his appeal.

□□□□□□

WINE wisdom. The Times advises its readers not to order "house white, please" in restaurants but to try: "Have you got a viognier-style aromatic white, the sort you might find in the Dolomites?" And if you do say that, can you guess which word will flash into the mind of the waiter and anyone else within earshot? Rhymes with anchor.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Minister in probe call after police lose bomb

THE LOSS of an explosive device suspected of being used in the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings must be 'carefully investigated'.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Theresa Villiers said the revelation that West Midlands Police had lost 35 pieces of evidence, including a bomb, was an 'operational' matter.

During a visit to the West Midlands, she said: "This needs to be carefully investigated to find out how the loss occurred. It's an operational matter for the police rather than me as a minister."

Distress

Asked for her views on a West Midlands Police decision not to hold a new inquiry into the bombings 40 years on, Mrs Villiers said: "The pain and distress for the loved ones of people who died is still very real but this is a matter entirely for the police to decide."

Bombs exploded at the Mulberry Bush and Tavern in the Town pubs in Birmingham in November 1974. Twenty-one people died and 182 were injured.

The so-called Birmingham Six were jailed in 1975 but their convictions were quashed in 1991. The discredited West Midlands Serious Crime Squad – later disbanded – was accused of mishandling the

case. No-one from the squad was prosecuted.

West Midlands Police has ruled out a new inquiry because it has no new evidence.

A third bomb, found at the rear of Barclays Bank in Hagley Road, Edgbaston, was disabled with a controlled explosion at 5am on the day after the pub bombings. It was later accidentally 'disposed' of.

Fingerprints nor further evidence of significance were discovered when the remains of the device were examined but it could have now been tested with new technology.

West Midlands chief constable Chris Sims said it was 'very unfortunate' that the bomb had gone missing but added that the force would 'dearly love to unlock this mystery and bring people to justice but we have found no new evidence.'

Mine and mansion walk



Geologist Graham Worton is to walk into the past

VISITORS have the chance to take a guided tour of Himley Hall's historic parkland, designed by 18th century landscape gardener Capability Brown.

Walks will be taking place this spring giving people the chance to learn more about the mansion and its surrounding acres.

A 'walk through time' takes place on April 23. Involving history and geology goes to the last working pit of the South Staffordshire Coalfield, returning via woodland to Himley. Graham Worton, the borough's geology expert, will lead the walk, starting in the courtyard of the hall at 6.15pm.

People can join the 10km South Staffs Explorer walk on April 30 from 2 to 5pm including Baggeridge and South Staffs Railway walk. Meet at the main car park.

There is an easy access trail on May 10 for wheelchair users and their families to explore the Himley Estate. Meet at the hall from 2pm. On May 25, there will be a guided walk around Himley Hall itself.

Book for the tours on (01384) 817817.

Memories sought of shop on way to museum

STAFF at the Black Country Living Museum are piecing together the history of a greengrocer's shop.

They are appealing for people to come forward with their memories.

A building at the attraction's canal side village will be transformed into the shop which was housed at 39 Lower Lichfield Street, Willenhall between around 1916 to 1932.

The museum is appealing for information so it can produce an authentic replica.

Research by the museum's collections team to date shows that Gertrude Adey, née Illidge, is listed in the Kelly's Trade Directory as a greengrocer at the original address.

She married William Adey in around 1900 and had two children, William A Adey, born circa 1901, and Gertrude M Adey, born circa 1903.

Staff are hoping to get more information about the Adey family, the shop and Lower Lichfield Street during the early 20th century.

They are also appealing for photographs of Willenhall and Black Country greengrocer shops pre-1960.

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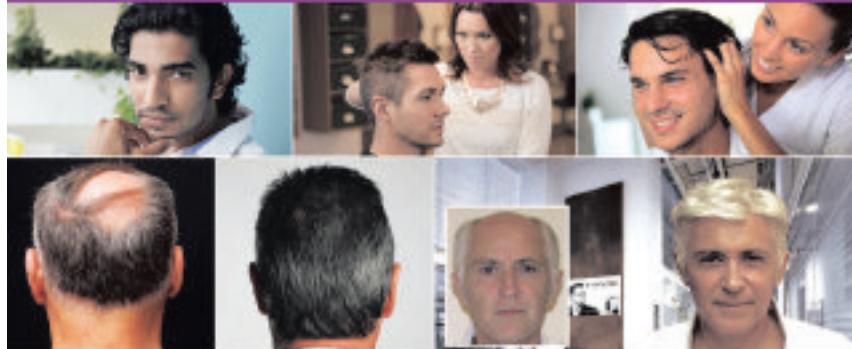
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Team is tackling anti-social behaviour

MORE than 1,000 cases of anti-social behaviour in Dudley have been dealt with by a specialist team set up to investigate complaints.

As a result there have been two evictions and four injunctions, which aim to prevent further problems. Some of the investigations have also led to warning letters being sent to troublemakers or noise abatement orders being issued.

Dudley Council says the dedicated team has allowed it provide a better service.

Experts

Councillor Steve Walther, cabinet member for housing and community safety, said: "One year ago this month we changed how we dealt with anti-social behaviour. Previously people who were suffering from neighbourhood nuisance were put in touch with different teams, depending on their issue."

"We now have just one team of 19 anti-social behaviour specialists, drawn from across the country, who are experts in their field. The simplicity of this approach and the extra skills that we now offer is benefitting our residents. No-one should have to live in constant fear."

"If you are suffering from persistent noise nuisance, harassment, or anything else that is negatively affecting your life, give the anti-social behaviour team a call."

For more information call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

Union unhappy at 'murky world' of uni chiefs' pay

UNIVERSITIES have been accused of bumping up their chiefs' salaries 'behind closed doors' while students face high fees.

Vice-chancellors are taking home more than the Prime Minister with the University and College Union describing senior academic pay awards as a 'murky world'.

It comes as students pay £9,000-a-year in tuition fees.

by Dan Wainwright

UCU regional official Anne O'Sullivan said: "Millions of pounds of public money are spent on vice-chancellors' salaries, yet their pay rise is decided behind closed doors with no accountability."

"The time has come for the lid to be lifted on the murky world of remuneration committees and senior pay in our universities. Students are paying £9,000 a year to study for a degree and they, and the taxpayer, have a right to know why so much of their money is going on paying the vice-chancellor."

Institutions have failed to publish minutes of meetings of remuneration committees to the union. BCU did send the union minutes but they were redacted and did not contain salary details. The University of Wolverhampton refused a request as minutes contained personal information and salary details were available elsewhere and Aston said its vice-chancellor's pay was already in the public domain.

Penguins make a splash at sealife centre



Centre manager, Amy Langham and curator, James Robson officially open the Penguin Ice Adventure at the venue

A COLONY of Gentoo penguins have been settling in to their new surroundings after a journey of more than 11,000 miles from New Zealand.

Families visiting the National Sea Life Centre in Birmingham have been able to get their first glimpse of the 12 penguins at their new £2.5m home.

The ice adventure offers a real insight into the lives and quirky habits of these inquisitive birds that are classed as 'near threatened'.

Visitors can get a feel for the pen-

guins' environment with an interactive ice wall and the curious characters are keen to get up close to visitors both above and below the viewing platforms.

Competitions are underway to pick further names for the birds alongside Alf, who is the leader of the pack, with Ginny, Lolly and Brick already chosen.

Curator James Robson said: "Penguin Ice Adventure has been about five years in the making. They've all settled into their brand new enclosure

really well. As a colony with a mix of ages, the older birds support, teach and encourage the younger birds, which is lovely to see."

"They spend a lot of time swimming and diving and are constantly exploring their 70,000 litre pool within the enclosure, and visitors can see them swooping underwater through a domed window at the bottom of the pool. They're the fastest swimming penguins and are so charismatic and loveable."

NEWS in brief

New block for college students

A TEACHING block for students with learning difficulties will be built under plans unveiled by a college.

Birmingham Metropolitan College want to open the single-storey 'showroom' for students next to its existing Brierley Hill campus in Venture Way by September. The block will also include three small classrooms and a space for team activities.

The college, which took the name of Stourbridge College following a merger, has lodged a planning application with Dudley Council. BPN Architects said the proposal was part of an aim to provide dedicated teaching for students with learning difficulties. The building on the campus car park will reduce the spaces from 78 to 69.

Sign up for animal facts in the zoo

VISITORS to Dudley Zoo can find out more about the exotic species thanks to more than 400 new signs.

The display panels at the 40 acre site on Castle Hill are part of a £150,000 initiative supported by European Regeneration Development Funding.

Jill Hitchman, head of communications at the zoo, said: "The signs, which incorporate our fantastic photographic archive, reflect the wide range of rare and exotic animals at DZG and also showcase our colourful history across eight decades. They offer instant, interesting and fun information in an easy-to-read format."

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IN THE age of text-speak, Twitter and whatever other means youngsters use to communicate today, teachers really have their work cut out trying to instil the importance of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

But while it probably won't ever make it onto the National Curriculum, the story about the sign outside a pub in Cornwall is a lesson for every youngster who can't be bothered with all that boring stuff.

'The Wig & Pen is open for business' is what the sign should have said. However, the sign-writer somehow got it wrong, forgetting to leave a space between the 'pen' and the 'is'.

And that's the trouble.

Learning boring old rules about sentence structure and non-phonetic spelling seems terribly boring and old-fashioned when you're 14. But ignoring it can leave you looking like a right 'pen is'.

■■■■■

A TABLOID report this week claimed that half a million patients who received cosmetic surgery are now at risk of black-mail.

Apparently, thousands of women who had breast implant surgery, or 'boob jobs' as they are known in the trade, are now at risk of having their secret exposed. So to speak.

Just a thought. If your 'boob job' is so secret that nobody knows about it, well, it can't really have worked, can it?

■■■■■

A COUPLE of years ago, I interviewed a fellow who told me how his in-laws did not speak to one another when he first got married.

"The one side of the family was from Colley Gate, and the other was from Cradley, and for a while they didn't speak to one another because I had married a 'foreigner', he said.

For those not familiar with this part of the world, Colley Gate and Cradley are about a mile apart.

Times have changed, but the story illustrates the futility of trying to create a 'Greater Birmingham city region', which has been rearing its head again lately.

And while we're on the subject, why do public authorities persist with banging on about the 'four Black Country boroughs'?

The Black Country is a loosely-defined concept which has been around for centuries. It is nothing to do with 1970s local government boundaries.

Government, both central and local should stick to sorting out the economy, maintaining order and emptying the bins.

And not delude itself into believing that you can change ancient identities with a few new signs.



Rocking Ruby - the star with Kevin Robbins



The boxing hero outside the Marbles premises



Ruby with Karen Jerrison from West Bromwich



THERE was a bigger scandal than the resignation of Maria Miller as Culture Secretary; the sacking of Michael Fabricant as a Conservative party vice chairman.

The always-entertaining blond bombshell that is Lichfield MP 'Mickey Fab' was dropped because he is about to lead a rebellion of Tories concerned about the route of the planned high speed rail line. But the final straw that saw him stripped of his prominent role was his remarks about Mrs Miller.

On the day Willenhall-born Mrs Miller finally bowed to public and political pressure to go over her expenses claims, Mr Fabricant said on Twitter that it was 'about time'.

And when the party asked him if he'd stand aside for that, he stood his ground. Resignation, Fabbo says, would imply he thought he'd done something wrong. And he doesn't think he has.

His more long-term disagreement with his party leaders, over HS2, is not unique to the MP. Both Staffordshire County Council and Lichfield District Council are formally opposed to the line and both are controlled by the Tories.

The Fabricant affair is actually a far more troubling one for the Tories than the Maria Miller one. Or, at least, it ought to be.

What the party effectively says to its members, as they start campaigning for the council and European elections is this: Claim thousands of pounds more than you should have from the taxpayer for your second home and then make a 32-second perfunctory apology for your attitude and you'll have the full backing of your leader.

But speak your mind as well as the views of the majority of the country and your constituents on a matter of trust and integrity in politics as well as a hugely costly and controversial piece of infrastructure and you're sacked.

■■■■■

Ed Miliband is still adamant that the country is in a 'cost of living crisis'. His solution is to promise to devolve £20 billion of taxpayers' money held in Whitehall to city and county regions.

This means eventual investment in infrastructure and skills, eventually meaning more businesses create jobs, eventually meaning people have more money to spend.

Meanwhile, on the way back to the office from Birmingham, where Mr Miliband made that announcement, a lady on the Midland Metro grumbled at the £5.70 cost of her return ticket.

She hadn't had the benefit of sitting and listening to Ed Miliband speak at length about the 'cost of living crisis' before he was chauffeured away in a Land Rover.

A Frank message on mental illness

Two celebrities have joined together with a local charity to highlight the problems of living with mental illness

HE made his career fighting his way to the top of the boxing world and now Frank Bruno is encouraging mental illness sufferers to stop fighting their feelings and open up instead.

"There is no need to struggle alone or in silence" the former heavyweight champion said during a visit to a Black Country mental health charity.

He told sufferers it was time to take down their barriers and speak openly about their problems.

The retired sportsman was joined by comedian Ruby Wax at a chat show style debate organised by Marbles, a charity which promotes good mental health and aims to de-stigmatise perceptions that surround sufferers.

It was held at the charity's second hand furniture warehouse in Great Bridge last Tuesday, and followed by a book signing with more than 70 visitors attending to hear the stars talk about their personal struggles.

The ex-boxer, who has battled with bi-polar disorder since 2003 and has had spells in hospital, said: "Since I have been open about my struggle I hope it has inspired people, not just men, to come forward and not be afraid."

"Mental health problems can happen to anyone. I want to encourage people to talk about how they are feeling, don't fight it."

"There is no need to struggle alone or in silence. Men struggle with pride and stress over what people might say but that adds more pressure."

"Don't fight against your feelings, let them out. There is help available."



Frank signs boxing gloves for St George's parade fundraiser Mark Cowles

He added: "Marbles is a very good charity. I am very privileged and honoured to be invited here today and hopefully help the charity more in the future."

For many years, the 52-year-old has been a champion for mental health awareness and has met with Government ministers to help get better treatment for sufferers.

American author, comedienne and chat show host Ruby Wax told the audience how depression would overcome her 'like a tidal wave' and talked about society's belief there is a quick fix to de-

pression. She said: "Everyone wants an instant pill but you can't get a six pack by only doing one sit up."

"You wouldn't tell a diabetic to come off their insulin so why do people think it's okay to tell someone with a mental health issue to get off the drugs or cheer up?"

"It is a disease where people don't know how to treat you or speak to you and because of this sufferers feel ashamed, on top of stress on top of shame and it drives you wild."

She added: "It is a real honour to be

asked here. This is how people should act about mental health, talk openly and have a support network. So many people do not have the support that this fantastic group offers."

"At first I would never have told anyone about my mental illness, I was scared I would get fired."

"Comic Relief took a promotional picture of me and put it into tube stations with the title 'One in four people have mental health problems and one in four have dandruff - I have both'. I became the poster girl for mental health and I toured with my routine in mental health hospitals for two years."

The two celebrities were joined by representatives from groups including Mind, Sandwell Mental Health, Time For Change and In2Work.

Kevin Robbins set up Marbles in 2005 after struggling to come to terms with his own bi-polar disorder.

He said: "The name of the charity has a deeper meaning than simply a play on the phrase 'he has lost his marbles'."

"It is because inside a marble is a fine line and with mental health it doesn't take much to cross over that fine line."

He added: "Hearing our two celebrities talk about their experiences will hopefully spread our key message, that there is a fine line at any one time between being well and not."

"We want people to know they can talk openly and we want to get rid of the stigma attached to mental health issues."

"Not even a sporting champion or celebrity is immune from it, mental health can affect anyone at any time."

One service user, who did not wish to be named, said: "Last year I had a major mental health breakdown but the support I received from the Marbles family gave me a new chance and helped me build my confidence to be more open about my condition."

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Can't see how police were wronged

ONCE again I am amazed by the money being given to public sector workers, following on from the fiasco of women cleaners being compensated for not being paid the same as bin men by Birmingham Council.

We now are faced with having to pay compensation to police officers who were forced to take retirement, having earned it by serving.

Whilst I have the greatest respect for police officers who do a hard and often dangerous job, I fail to see that they have been wronged, and many of us in the private sec-

tor can only look on with envy at the £71.3m paid out in lump sums plus an index linked pension averaging over £20,000 per annum.

Rather than add expensive court costs to all this, maybe it would be better if the officers who feel that retirement was forced upon them to let them return to work but allow them to keep the monthly payments they have so far received, just returning the lump sum until they are ready to retire.

R GWILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

Move the bollards out of square

I READ with disbelief the letter from B Etheridge, I presume the UKIP representative, regarding Stone Street Square.

Anyone with proper knowledge of local politics knows that the project was the brainchild of Cyril Woodall during the last Labour administration in Dudley, when they were allowed to spend a fortune of our money.

If Labour had their way it would have been worse and would have housed the centotaph. I was the only councillor out of the 14 at the then Central Area Committee who voted for its placement in the corner, still marked out. They refused to second my nomination for its placement in Coronation Gardens which we in the Royal British Legion fought hard to secure.

Stone Street should house the same amount of vehicles it always did by just pulling up the bollards encompassing an area used less than once a year since its disastrous introduction.

M DAVIS
Kates Hill

LETTERS

to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chron
@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

There's no dog poop problem at this park

I WOULD like to reply to the letter printed in the Dudley Chronicle, written by T Davies, of Dudley, regarding dogs in the park at Wall Heath.

May I say that having lived in Albion Street overlooking the park for some years, I have never once had one whiff of dog poo and neither have my neighbours when I have spoken to them regarding this matter.

I am at a loss to think how T Davies has reached this conclusion but would strongly recommend him visiting his local clinic to ensure that all is well with his sense of smell.

I look over the park very often during the day, and must say that the majority of people are very responsible at keeping their dogs under control and always clean up after them too.

Many lovely dogs and their owners use the park, meeting up for a stroll on a daily basis, indeed it is the heart of our community here in our lovely village.

I do wonder when I read small minded comments from people, if they genuinely have nothing better to do with their time?

Perhaps T Davies should therefore stay in Dudley where he lives — or if he dares venture onto our beautiful park, try wearing a peg on his nose if that will solve his issue, as no one else seems to have a problem!

J JONES
Wall Heath

No respect for cortege

WHEN I was a child, walking with my brother and granddad, and we saw a funeral approaching, they would remove their caps until it had passed by. My brother was only six and I was five, but we learnt that was the right thing to do to show respect.

In the last week, I have attended three funerals and I noticed the lack of respect shown to the cortege as it drives from the church to the crematorium. Drivers show no respect to the funeral cars, they pulled out in between the cortege and family car, thus splitting the procession, even overtaking the cortege.

Surely they could have shown a bit of respect for the families at such sad times.

I sincerely hope that when their day comes, they get shown the same respect.

H SPITTLE

Dudley

Buses used to run on time

JUST to let you know about buses on our estate — they are a joke. A few of us waited over an hour on Tuesday night for the 276 to come in from Merry Hill.

The X96 has to come from the same area of Merry Hill and that can get to the bus station on time. Tuesday night we saw six 246 come in and go out and five buses 'Out of Service' on the front of them.

There is never no one to speak to at Stourbridge Bus Station. It was better with the 294-295, at least they ran on time.

S J ROBERTS
Norton



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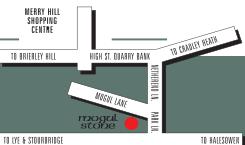


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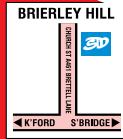
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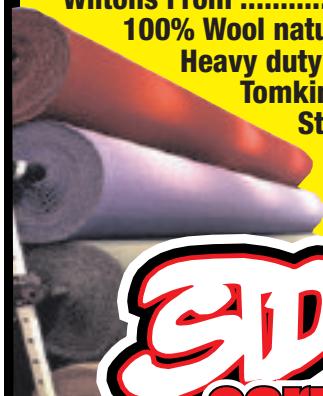
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**Bear facts
about teddy
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**KINGSWINFORD
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CHAIRMAN Sheila Evans welcomed all members, two visitors and speaker David Chatterly, to the April 3 meeting.

The business agenda was read, approved and signed.

Thank you messages were read out from Val, Nadine and Iris, who are recovering from illness.

Arrangements for the trip to Ros Labels Fashion Outlet and then on to Symonds Yat Leisure Park in Herefordshire have been finalised and it will take place on September 11.

David Chatterly introduced himself as an arctophile, a collector of teddy bears.

He gave a comprehensive history of these toys emphasising the changing characteristics, material from mohair to nylon, sawdust stuffing to kapok, static to moving limbs, wooden eyes to glass and differing facial expressions.

He demonstrated these changes by showing several bears from his large collection. They included Steiff, Chad Valley, Merry Thought and Pixie Toys which were made in Stourbridge.

The final teddy bear was about two inches long, and lived in a brass tin case also containing a union flag and buttons. These were made in 1914 and given by wives and sweethearts to their men going to war.

Sylvia Fletcher gave the vote of thanks and two ladies won a raffle prize.

**Guided tour follows
handover of cheque**



Guild members with Sue Beesley and Amanda Cox at Acorns Hospice

GREAT WYRLEY TG

THREE members from Great Wyrley TG visited Acorns Hospice in Walsall to present a cheque for £200. The money had been collected by the guild in donations in lieu of Christmas Cards.

The ladies were given refreshments and a guided tour of the centre by community

team worker Sue Beesley and then were introduced to Amanda Cox who is a fundraising administrator. Bette Webb, chairman of the TG then presented the cheque to Amanda.

Members are given food for thought with an A-Z of trivia

WALSALL CENTRAL

sent to Sue Smith, the former national chairman, who was unable to attend as she was actually at Buckingham Palace receiving an OBE for her services to TWG.

Following the meal great entertainment was provided by comedian Doug Parker.

The chairman of the South Staffs Federation, Pat White, a member of WCTWG, chaired the evening and announced that an invitation had been

ters, introduced the speaker for the evening, Jane Phillips. Jane is presently teaching a modern form of home economics, including cooking, at Queen Mary's Grammar School for Boys.

Jane's subject was A-Z of food trivia and among the many facts learned was the origin of the simple sandwich, the anti-bacterial qualities of honey and that teabags are not available to buy in Japan.

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Keyboard Music - Beginners	28/4/14	Wed	19.30 - 21.00	£37.50
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Pilates - Beginners	29/4/14	Wed	18.30 - 20.00	£37.50
Portrait Painting - All levels	30/4/14	Wed	19.00 - 21.00	£50.00
Pottery - All levels	29/4/14	Fri	19.00 - 21.00	£50.00
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Water Colour Painting - Intermediate	02/5/14	Mon	14.00 - 17.00	£75.00
Yoga - Mixed abilities	28/4/14	Tue	19.30 - 21.00	£37.50
Yoga and Meditation - Mixed abilities	28/4/14	Tue	19.00 - 21.00	£50.00

Defibrillator move by school after rugby death



Life-saver – a defibrillator for use in emergencies is presented to students and staff at the ACE Academy in Tipton

A LIFE-SAVING defibrillator has been presented to a school following the death of a rugby player during a match in Worcestershire.

ACE Academy in Tipton was given the equipment, to help people having a heart attack, as part of a national campaign.

The move followed the death of 15-year-old Luke Chapman, who collapsed while playing for Hagley's Haybridge High School at Kidderminster Baxter College in March last year.

It later emerged he died from Sudden Adult Death Syndrome.

Richard Rainbird-Hitchins, pupil co-ordinator at the 1,400 pupil school, said: "After hearing about Luke, we wanted to make sure that if we ever had the same situation at the school, we had the equipment in place to try and save a life."

Luke, of Meadowcroft, Hagley, was playing for his school when he died on March 20.

He also played youth rugby at Old Halesonians Rugby Club. The club now has defibrillators and a first aider at home and away matches.



Sudden death – Luke Chapman

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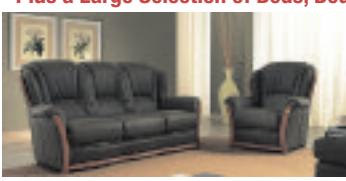
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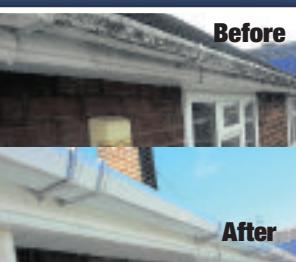
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Fundraising to bring tragic Elle back home

FATE dealt a cruel blow to kind, intelligent schoolgirl Elle Davidson, who had gained A* grades in her GCSEs and was bound for university at Oxford or Cambridge.

The Kingswinford teenager was struck down by a brain condition last year which has left her confined to a wheelchair and unable to communicate. Friends and family are now trying to raise £80,000 needed for adaptations to the 17-year-old's home.

At the moment she and her mother, Leah, live at a rehabilitation centre in Surrey. Her father Phil has to come home to the Black Country to work and is only able to join his family at the weekend. The adaptations would mean Elle could come home for the first time since she was struck down.

Collapsed

The nightmare started for Wolverhampton Girls' High School student Elle on January 12, 2013, when she collapsed with severe head pain. Her mother took her to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital where it was originally thought she was suffering from stress and she was discharged the next day.

But when the same thing happened two days later a CT scan was carried out and Elle was rushed to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Tests revealed she had a brain condition called AVM which she had been born with but did not know about until she was taken ill.

Elle had two small bleeds to the brain and operations were carried out. She later had a stroke and two heart attacks. She needed a shunt fitted to drain brain fluid and a metal plate to replace the area of her skull which had to be removed. Tests have shown the youngster is now unable to see.



'Elle's Angels' who are aiming to raise £80,000 so Elle Davidson can come home



'Kindest, sweetest girl' — teenager Elle before she was struck down

Family friend Louise Evans said a charity ball is being held on May 10 at the Mill Hotel, Alveley, near Bridgnorth, to help raise money for the home adaptations. Tickets are £40 including a three-course meal, live band, DJ and auction. Call Lloyd Sutton on 07770836008 for tickets.

Louise said: "What happened to Elle was tragic. She was the kindest,

sweetest girl you could meet. She was the top in all her subjects and had awards for being the best pupil."

"We are trying to secure the money needed for these adaptations so Elle can come home and be with her whole family."

An appeal has also gone out to any tradesmen who would be willing to help with the work.

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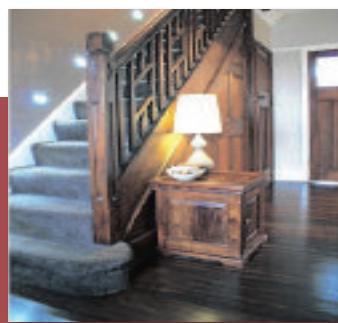
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Masked raiders at village shop

ROBBERS burst into a newsagents and punched one member of staff in the face before threatening another with a bottle and making off with cash and cigarettes.

The two male staff members were cleaning and cashing up at McColl's, in High Street, Belbroughton, when the four raiders struck. They entered through a back door before forcing shop to open to safety.

The robbers, who had their faces covered, took cash from the safe and the cigarettes from a display behind the till.

One of the staff was grabbed and threatened with a bottle and the other was punched in the face during the incident.

A neck chain was also stolen from one of the store workers who was pushed into a toilet and ordered to stay there while the robbers escaped the way they had come in.

Officers are still trying to establish exactly how much was stolen. The robbery took place between 10pm and 10.30pm last Wednesday.

Contact CID on 101.

No U-turn on council policy to seize horses

A CONTROVERSIAL policy of seizing roaming horses from public land in the Black Country will continue for the next two years, a council boss has pledged.

Sandwell Council has appointed a new company to tackle the long-running problem, with the contract running until March 2016. The authority has come in for criticism for its policy on seizing roaming and tethered horses, which was launched three years ago.

Critics say it runs against a Black Country tradition which is particularly strong in Tipton.

The latest move comes after six roaming horses were reported on open land known locally as The Cracker earlier this week.

Councillor Ian Jones, the borough's jobs and economy boss, said: "We are asking all our horse owners to be responsible. Roaming horses are not acceptable at all and they will be seized."

"We will be mindful of the welfare of the animals but they are dangerous while they are roaming, so they will need to be taken away."

Horse owners have previously threatened legal action and took to the streets, disrupting traffic with horse-drawn carts and caravan.

However, Sandwell Council has stood by the policy, saying the horses pose a danger.

In March last year, an investigation found that only one of the 51 horses seized in the borough had been successfully returned to its owner.

Councillor Jones added that a recent survey had shown there were more than 20 horses tethered on council land, and half were discovered to be micro-chipped. He said: "We will be taking enforcement action as appropriate in those cases."

Sandwell's problem is one of the biggest in the Black Country but the problem also affects parts of Dudley.

Morning brawl

TEN people were involved in a street fight in West Bromwich, leading police to arrest three men. A man was assaulted during the fight at around 10.20am on Saturday morning. The disorder was in St Michael Street in the town centre.

Loyalty makes worker a cut above at firm



Andrew McIntyre celebrates 25 years service with colleagues

He joined to earn some 'much-needed cash' and, 25 years on, Andrew McIntyre is still cutting mesh for the same family firm. The 47-year-old can remember his first day at R&J Mesh in Brierley Hill and admits 'time has flown by'.

Mr McIntyre has been praised by managing director Matthew Harris, who described the father-of-one as a loyal and passionate worker.

Andrew, who lives in Dudley, said: "I studied at Dudley School and did various bits and bobs but needed some cash after the birth of my first child. I got the job and I remember the then owner telling me it was going to be hard but I actually found it quite easy as I was fit then."

The firm brings in metal mesh from manufacturers in Sheffield before cutting it up and selling it locally. It has nine staff.

Mr Harris said: "Andrew has been a great worker. He rarely takes a day off and has experience other people can learn from."

New strategy for transport in region

Recruitment is under way

IMPROVING road and rail in the region is a key element of the Black Country's bid for Government money from the Single Local Growth Fund.

It is looking for around £12 million to kick start a string of new projects, including a new railway station in Wolverhampton and a bigger Junction 10 on the M6.

It also aims to improve the Birchley Island junction of the M5 and build a new railway station in Aldridge.

The biggest project, however, would seen nearly £65 million spent on unclogging traffic snarl-ups at Junction 10 of the M6 for Walsall 2, by increasing the size of the bridge and roundabout that sit astride the motorway.

The Strategic Plan says current efforts to manage the traffic on the slip roads and the junction are only a temporary solution and that 'a more suitable, permanent solution is required'. That means increasing the size of the structure over the M6.

THE application process to find 450 new police constables for West Midlands Police opened this week.

It will be the first time officers have been taken on since a freeze on recruitment five years ago.

More than 20,000 people have already registered their interest.

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Roundabout crash closes main route

TWO cars crashed on a busy traffic island before careering off the road and into railings.

Emergency services were called to the roundabout at the bottom of Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, at 4pm on Tuesday.

Debris was strewn across the roadway causing delays while it was cleared by fire crews from Oldbury and Cradley Heath stations.

The two female occupants got out of the vehicles and it is believed there were no serious injuries.

The cause of the accident between the Vauxhall Astra estate and Fiat is being investigated.

Watch commander Matt Payne, from Cradley Heath station, said: "It was lucky that there was no-one on the pavement at the time."

Jongleurs back at original venue

COMEDY club Jongleurs is returning to its original home in Birmingham after a seven-month absence.

On May 2 the Highlight Comedy Club in Broad Street, Birmingham, will revert to its original name. The original Jongleurs was renamed Highlight in 2009, after its owner Regent Inns went into administration.

The Jongleurs name was sold separately and a rival comedy club opened under the Jongleurs brand at the nearby Bliss night club. However, that rival closed last year and Highlight owner Intertain has now acquired the Jongleurs name. Comedy nights will take place every Friday and Saturday.

Counterfeit goods couple will have to sell home

A COUPLE who used their family home as a shop to sell counterfeit goods will have to sell the property to pay a £50,000 court bill.

Wayne Hinton and Samantha Blizzard filled their three-bedroom house, in Astley Court, Halesowen, with £75,000 worth of fake designer items. The pair, who have three children, then sold them in a makeshift display room.

At an earlier hearing Hinton, 41, and Blizzard, 35, were each given a 16-month jail sentence suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 250-hours unpaid work.

They were back before Wolverhampton Crown Court on Tuesday for a Proceeds of Crime hearing.

Judge Martin Walsh was told Blizzard had gained £57,756 by selling the fake goods while Hinton had benefited by £50,306.

The court was told the only asset the couple had was their home, solely in Blizzard's name. A confiscation order for £50,000 was made against Blizzard which will have to be paid within six months. Hinton disclaimed an interest in the house and was ordered to pay £1 by the court.

If the cash is not raised within the allotted time both will be jailed for 18 months, although they can apply for more time.

Among the 738 counterfeit items seized at their house were fake Adidas tracksuits, Superdry jackets, UGG and Hunter boots, Pandora bracelets, Monster headphones and GHD hair straighteners.

They each pleaded guilty to 15 counts of possession of goods with false trademarks for sale or hire and 15 counts of offering and exposing for sale goods bearing a false trademark.

The couple had first been drawn to the attention of Dudley Council's trading standards following a number of complaints in July 2011.

After receiving intelligence that the couple were to restock on December 1, 2012, a team of officers swooped on their address. The court was told a room of the house had been set up as a mini-shop with goods displayed on shelves and table tops.

The court heard the couple had faced 'financial pressure' when running a baguette bar in Oldbury.



Sellers of fake goods Wayne Hinton and Samantha Blizzard arrive at Wolverhampton Crown Court, where they were told their home would have to be sold to pay their bill

Concern at impact of betting machines

GAMBLERS lost £24 million on high stakes machines in town centre bookmakers in the West Midlands in one year, figures show.

Campaigners say it reinforces calls for a clampdown on fixed odds betting terminals that allow people to gamble hundreds of pounds at a time.

The Campaign for Fairer Gambling reveals that some of the biggest losses were incurred in areas with the highest deprivation, with people in Sandwell blowing £7.4m on the machines last year. Estimates by the group suggest gamblers in Dudley lost just under £5m.

Disputes

The Association of British Bookmakers disputes the statistics and said it would make 'no sense' for its members to target poor communities.

It comes as a single bookmakers' chain, Ladbrokes, was shown to have made £1 billion from the machines in just one month. Councils could be given powers to stop clusters of betting shops.

Bookmakers are allowed a maximum four fixed odd betting machines in each of their premises. They are so popular that it is claimed they account for up to 80 per cent of the profits in some high street betting offices.

Tom Watson, Labour MP for West Bromwich East, said: "There are more of these machines in the areas with the poorest people."

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Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply. for all breaks

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Could do better, says school report

FIGURES reveal for schools rated as outstanding or good across the Black Country, only one borough scores higher than the national average.

Sandwell finished top of the class after figures from the cabinet office showed that 81 per cent of Ofsted inspected schools in the borough last year were rated as good or outstanding. The national average is 80 per cent. Dudley had 70 per cent and both Walsall and Wolverhampton had 66 per cent.

Dudley children's services boss Councillor Tim Crumpton said: "Results show that approximately 75 per cent of our schools have been inspected as being good or outstanding and I would congratulate everyone involved. We are working with all of our schools to achieve our ambition of every school in the borough being a good school."

Speed restrictions of 50mph have been in place

M6 misery comes to an end with fourth lane opening

ALMOST two years of misery for motorists are ending with the opening up of four lanes on a busy stretch of the M6 motorway is finally completed.

Work has been ongoing to open up a fourth lane between junctions five and eight as part of a £126 million scheme.

The hard shoulder will now be open at peak times in the mornings and evenings in a bid to ease congestion.

Speed restrictions of 50mph have been in place

during the roadworks, adding time to journeys on one of the busiest stretches of motorway in the West Midlands. The motorway's three lanes were also narrowed during the work.

The Highways Agency has undertaken the project, which began in June 2012 between junction five for Castle Bromwich and eight for the M5 link at West Bromwich.

Two months ago the 50mph restrictions were lifted between junctions eight and six for Spaghetti Junction, leading to a trial period during which the hard shoulder was opened to traffic during off-peak hours.

And now the final few miles between junctions five and six will also be fully operational.

Overhead speed limit signs are dotted along the 10-mile stretch, with motorists often kept at speeds between 40mph and 60mph when queues are controlled by staffs at the Highways Agency regional control centre in Quinton.

Work is continuing further north on the M6 where 50mph speed restrictions are in place between junctions 10A, for the M54, and 13 for Eccleshall as the hard shoulder is again opened up. The work is expected to be completed by spring 2015.

Flying flag for the Black Country

MERCHANDISE including flags and T-shirts is being produced to raise funds for the Black Country Day festival.

Not-for-profit organisation Black Country Festival Events is also selling mugs, key rings and stickers to build funds for the celebrations. Its treasurer Steve Edwards, who also runs The Only Way is Dudley Facebook page, said all the merchandise bore the new Black Country flag.

"All the profits will go back in to helping put on events on Black Country Day itself – July 14 – and throughout July," said Steve. Black Country merchandise can be bought through website www.blackcountryfestivalsevents.co.uk and among the events is a celebration in Stone Street Square in Dudley on July 12.

Council is saying 'let there be light'



St Edmund King and Martyr Church in Castle Street, Dudley

A GRADE II listed church will be lit up at night under new plans to showcase a town's heritage.

Dudley Council wants to install lighting outside St Edmund King and Martyr Church in Castle Street.

It is the first stage of a scheme to brighten up a series of buildings in the town centre.

The church illuminations will cost the council 45p a night, if approved by planning officers.

John Millar, director at Dudley Council, said: "The idea is to use energy-efficient LED lights to highlight some of the most attractive buildings in the town centre.

"We hope that this project will encourage people to recognise and feel proud of Dudley's heritage, while encouraging a town centre night culture and economy."

The initiative is part of the council's £6.7m regeneration project to breathe new life into Dudley town centre.

The first phase will cover Castle Street from the Earl of Dudley statue to the junction of New Street. The Earl of Dudley statue will be reset within a raised lawn. Contractors will then move onto phase two, the market place itself.

Snooker club is to go under hammer

A SNOOKER club is going up for auction. The Golden Cue Snooker Club, in Station Road, Rowley Regis, complete with 16 full sized tables, has a guide price of £295,000 in the CP Bigwood auction.

It is being held in the Holte Suite at Villa Park on May 1 from 11am.

Hagley properties with potential for housing development are in the auction. They are Strathearn on Western Road and nearby Rose Cottage and Thicknall Cottage. Strathearn, with a guide price of £900,000 to £1 million, comprises a substantial six bedroom, four reception room, detached house on a site of about one acre. It is thought up to 10 homes could be accommodated as part of a wider scheme for which outline planning permission has been granted.

The former Five Ways pub in High Street, Cradley Heath, converted into a shop and flats, is also among lots.

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College on course for lot more choice

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

BIRMINGHAM Metropolitan College campuses in the Black Country and Kidderminster are offering a host of new courses in September, increasing the choice of study available in the region.

Stourbridge Campus will benefit from a range of additional A Levels including Communications and Culture, Mathematics Mechanics and Statistics, Philosophy, Physical Education, Physics and Religious Studies as well as a Music Technology Certificate.

Hair and Beauty courses are getting a make-over with the introduction of a Barbering Certificate, Creative Beauty Consultancy Diploma Level 2, Hair & Media Make-up Diploma Level 2 and Hairdressing for Colouring Technicians Diploma Level 2.

Mukesh Kumar, Executive Director for Curriculum at Birmingham Metropolitan College, said: "Our aim, as well as improving facilities and investing in our campuses in this area, is to radically improve the choice of courses available for school leavers and adult learners. As well as boosting our A Level offer, we've also introduced new vocational courses across a wide spectrum of areas which complements our existing offer."

Approval

In the Black Country, other new courses include AAT Accounting, Applied Science, Cisco Networking Academy Extended, Entrance to Construction, Law & Criminology Access to Higher Education, Motorcycle Repair, Outdoor Adventurer, Performing Engineering Operations, Plumbing, Vocational Studies and a new Motorcycle Apprenticeship.

Kidderminster school leavers can choose from an Animal Management Diploma Level 2 & 3, Countryside Management Diploma Level 3, Introduction to Electronics (Digital Technology) Diploma Level 1 and a Tourism and Events Diploma Level 2.

NEW PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACADEMY

Birmingham Metropolitan College has launched a Professional Services Academy in the Black Country and Wyre Forest region for A Level students choosing to study qualifications in Law, Finance, Accounting and Business Studies and local legal firm, Thursfields LLP, has given its legal seal of approval by being one of the first local companies to sign up to the partnership.

Thursfields LLP has offices in Kidderminster, Stourport, Worcester and Halesowen and is one of the region's most reputable law firms employing more than 100 staff.

Nigel Davies, Equity Partner, said: "We really liked the idea of a business partnership model which helps students prepare for work by offering them opportunities to develop the crucial skills they need to pursue careers when they leave college. We will be offering students studying at the Stour-



Students at work in one of the classrooms



Thursfields LLP Sign Up for the new Professional Services Academy –

bridge Campus and The Academy at Kidderminster 'on-site' training, mentoring, guru lectures and an internship programme which ultimately should benefit the business, offering us the opportunity to recruit from a pool of talent ready and equipped for work."

Students studying AS/A Levels in Law, Accounting, Economics, Business Studies and Mathematics will have the opportunity to join the Professional Services Academy. Apprentices are also available in Accounting, Business Administration and Legal Studies.

BUILDING FUTURES

The £5million investment in refurbishing facilities at the Stourbridge Campus is now underway with the appointment of local Midlands' construction company, Clegg's, who have

committed to providing work experience and apprenticeship opportunities for local students.

The main building will benefit from the ambitious and exciting redevelopment programme which will enhance facilities across the board for students and staff.

John Starmer, Executive Director of Estates at Birmingham Metropolitan College, said: "Our £5m investment in new facilities for students and staff at the Stourbridge Campus on Hagley Road is exciting news for Stourbridge.

It's our aim to create a vibrant, exciting presence by providing high-quality teaching and learning facilities at the heart of the community whilst equipping students with the skills relevant to our local, economic needs."



A picture of the Stourbridge Campus redevelopment reception interior

Baggies bonus with Easter hospital visit

BAGGIES players were a big hit with poorly youngsters when they handed out Easter eggs on a visit to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Goalkeepers Ben Foster and Boaz Myhill, defenders Gareth McAuley, Jonas Olsson and Liam Ridgewell and captain Chris Brunt toured the hospital.

And they also lent their support to a £4m appeal to transform the hospital's children's cancer centre.

Olsson said: "We normally do this around Christmas but I think we should do things like this as much as we can."

"It always puts things in perspective and there are a lot of emotions but it was nice to see the kids enjoying our visit and it's important for the club and the players to do these kind of things."

Chocolate

"I have a daughter who is almost two and the feelings are sometimes overwhelming."

The players handed out chocolate, cuddly toys and games at the city centre hospital, which provides care for youngsters from across the West Midlands.

They met patients in the play centre and cancer wards and took part in an Easter-themed colouring competition.

The visit was also designed to promote the Children's Cancer Centre Appeal, which is now in its final stages, with the hospital needing just £500,000 more before work can begin to transform the current surroundings.

Foster said: "It was lovely to do it. It is always hard at a children's hospital, especially wards that specialise in cancer treatment, but it was really nice and the kids were brilliant."



Boaz Myhill meets Sarah Martin and her children Rhianna and Izabella



Jonas Olsson gets a kiss from staff Rosanna Peck and Rachael Archer



Chris Brunt, Liam Sidwell and Ben Foster meet Charlie French



Gareth McAuley and Jonas Olsson with Charlie Dudley, from Sutton Coldfield
It says a lot for the kids and the staff that they all had smiles on their faces. We saw with our own eyes what brilliant care the cancer wards provide and I hope the hospital reaches its appeal target as soon as possible."

The cancer unit sees around 3,000 patients from across the UK every

year but the current facility is over 30 years old and has outgrown its current environment. The proposed new facilities would include play zones, better communal areas for families and an improved outpatient area. Donations to the appeal can be made online at www.bch.org.uk/cancer_appeal

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- Visit to Brussels
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

London Theatre by coach

Two days selected weekend departure dates

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London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is King in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or Dine and Dance.

The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £139.95, includes a ticket for the evening show whereas the Dine and Dance option starts from £149.95, and includes an evening meal with an after-dinner disco. The ticket for this break is for the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The from price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure/web page for details.

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)



Kew Gardens Tree Tops Walk and Hampton Court

Two days departing June 21

PRICE FROM **£129**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Kew Gardens and Rhizotron and Xstrata Treetop walkway
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace, gardens and maze
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Royal Ascot on Ladies Day

Day trip departing June 19

PRICE FROM **£89.95**

- Return coach travel
- Brunch-time full English breakfast with a glass of sparkling wine
- Admission to the Silver Ring enclosure (upgrade offered)
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

Lindisfarne and The Alnwick Gardens

Three days departing June 13 and September 19



Pick of the Week

PRICE FROM **£169**

Truly magical Alnwick Garden, one of the most talked about and remarkable transformations of recent times, and Holy Island, or Lindisfarne as it's often known, only accessible at low tide via a narrow causeway, are just two of the highlights of this long weekend break.

On Lindisfarne island there is plenty to do - maybe stroll around the village, take in the sea air and fabulous views, visit Lindisfarne Castle, the ancient priory ruin with its 'rainbow arch' or enjoy the interactive 'Lindisfarne Gospels' exhibition in the Lindisfarne centre (all entrances payable locally).

The centrepiece at The Alnwick Garden is the famous Grand Cascade, with its jets of water and tumbling waterfalls where a computer system synchronises four different fountain displays.

The ornamental garden boasts over 15,000 plants while the Rose Garden, a mix of pergola-lined paths and grassy walkways covered in climbing and shrub roses, with clematis and honeysuckle is a feast of colour and scent.

There are also themed gardens to explore, a woodland walk, the Castle which dates back to the 11th century (entrance payable locally) and the Tree House to ascend (accessible to all, including wheelchair users).

Visits to Durham, with its huge Norman Cathedral, fine castle and steep winding alleys, known as vennels, plus Bamburgh, with its fairytale castle and views across to the Farne Islands, are also on the itinerary.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to The Alnwick Garden
- Visits to Lindisfarne, Durham and Bamburgh
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Remarkable comeback by veteran

Bill Caddick

Newhampton Folk Club
COMPLETE with stainless steel screws in his foot and a radiator key for tuning his mandolin, which he bought for £2 — the mandolin not the key — Bill Caddick was back on home turf in the upper room of the Newhampton Inn.

Caddick has been on the folk scene for half a century but he was taken out action, certainly from touring,

for just over a year due to a problem with his foot which has hopefully been solved by surgery.

Raconteur and 12-string guitar player Caddick, from Bilston, was warmly received as he opened with The Song Will Go On which was the first glimpse of his impressive fret work on his guitar, which he segued into the light tune of Donkey Jack from his album Unicorns.

Caddick is a talkative performer and

he entertained between the songs too. His was a remarkable performance considering he was obviously battling a croaky throat. Caddick's offerings included Poor Pig, Winter Fair, Letter To Syracuse and Lili Marlene Walks Away. Towards the end his voice was showing signs of strain and his hand was suffering cramp but like a true performer he saw the night out and even threw in an encore.

DANNY FARRAGHER

Brass and pride in a gutsy play

Brassed Off, Wolverhampton Grand

IT took us on a rollercoaster from the pits of despair as a mine faced closure to the heart warming bond that held together the workers.

Strong, gutsy performances in Brassed Off came from the men facing the tough decision on whether to take the money or fight and from the wives who stood with placards battling to keep husband in work.

In the fictional northern town of Grimley residents are not only confronting the prospect of unemployment, but also their beloved Colliery Brass Band is in danger of dissolving despite endeavour to reach their ultimate goal of the National Brass Band Championships.

The play brilliantly took us on a traumatic journey with funny and poignant moments. The band, actors and musicians from Shropshire's Jackfield band, were superb. Another local touch were the two grandchildren played by Wombourne youngsters Harry Haden, aged 7, and his five-year-old sister Molly.

SUE ATTWATER

Reviews



The international Tap Factory crew power tapped impressively at the Grand Theatre

Factory workers let their frenetic feet do the talking

Tap Factory, Wolverhampton Grand

THIS pulsating, frenetic show blended elements of Tap Dogs and Stomp for an exhilarating night of percussion and a style of dance best described as 'extreme tap'.

It takes something special for a show to hold the attention for 90 minutes despite having no storyline and no English dialogue but the eight performers in Tap Factory let their feet do the talking. These guys tapped so fast and so hard that they must have left scratch marks on the stage.

The show had an industrial setting with scaffolding and oil drums stickered with toxic warnings. This became a percussive

playground for performers who could beat a rhythm out of anything. Dance moves brought in elements of acrobatics, gymnastics and African dance.

Props including a step ladder, garden recliner, tin bath and aluminium cans were used by the boiler-suited dancers who created their own soundtrack of relentless rhythm. A clap-along audience participation routine was one of the few lulls.

Star dancers were Jeremie Champagne with his clowning and two times world champion Gilles Guenat with a stunning routine that showed why he is tip top at tap.

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SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily looking for Mr Right or Mr Wrong or even Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411048

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408297

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719

BABS 27yrs slender with dark hairied passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice/n's male to spend quality adult time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943

JENNIE attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949

ARE you tall or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate don or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637

JOANNA 29 yr old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408291

RETIRD happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap. Shropshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410939

CHRISTINA, curly beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 410127

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football! Looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what we have to lose, call me. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410765

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LOVING caring, considerate, romantic, passionate, Stoke area man, 52, OHAC, good looking, professional, seeks tactile, slim-medium build female for special occasions and exotic holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407683

EASY going male 45, likes sports, seeks female for relationship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411541

5FT 6ins male, dark hair/eyes, glasses, likes meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411455

IAN 47, 5ft 11ins, likes cinema, nights in/out, sports, socialising, GSOH seeking similar female. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 41297

BLACK female, 45, seeking older gent, 60 plus who knows how to look after a lady. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787

ANNABELLA bold attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun. No TLC required. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449

ATTRACTION male, seeks 100% adult fun with woman, any age/looks or status. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411253

MALE WLTM past racing shaped lady, 50-65, Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411109

PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discrete daytime fun. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411099

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410373

SLIM attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and evenings out. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410261

PETE 61 ins, body builder, likes kick boxing, daughter, seeking female, 30-40 for love. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410245

KEV 53, Stoke, seeking female for fun, romance, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410997

JEFF 35, GSOH, likes cinema, swimming, ice skating, seeks special female with similar interests. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410997

CHRIS 52, 5ft 10ins, brown hair, blue eyes, open minded, looking for female for discrete no strings fun. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410643

BROADMINDED professional, tall, dark male, easy going, GSOH, seeking female with similar interests. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410703

PAUL 68, 5ft 7ins, fit, genuine, enjoys most things, likes a laugh, seeking similar female for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410655

5FT 10ins male, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40 plus for daytime fun. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410589

CHRIS 32, 5ft 10ins, brown hair, blue eyes, open minded, looking for female for discrete no strings fun. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410643

BROADMINDED professional, tall, dark male, easy going, GSOH, seeking female with similar interests. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410703

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Bunnymen gig and new album

INFLUENTIAL Liverpudlian band Echo & The Bunnymen are coming to Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall on May 11, just before they release their 12th album, *Meteorites*, their first in five years.

The new album from the creators of The Cutter, Lips Like Sugar and The Killing Moon is out on May 26. The album has been produced by Killing Joke's Youth and single Lovers On The Run is released on the same day. The songs have been written by frontman Ian McCulloch and the band features original guitarist Will Sergeant.

Acclaimed for classic 1984 album Ocean Rain, The Bunnymen were a major influence on Brit-pop bands and Coldplay.

OMG! Shows for the youngsters

WITH the Easter holidays in full swing there are several shows around aimed at the youngsters. Biggest will be the free pop concert OMG at the LG Arena on Thursday, April 24, featuring Lawson and Union J among others. Check www.omglive.co.uk to see if tickets are still available.

In space no one can hear you laugh but that doesn't stop The Chuckle Brothers going on a 2014 Space Oddity for two shows at the Grand this Saturday. Jacqueline Wilson's Victorian adventure Hetty Feather is staged at Birmingham Town Hall from Tuesday to Sunday, April 22-27.

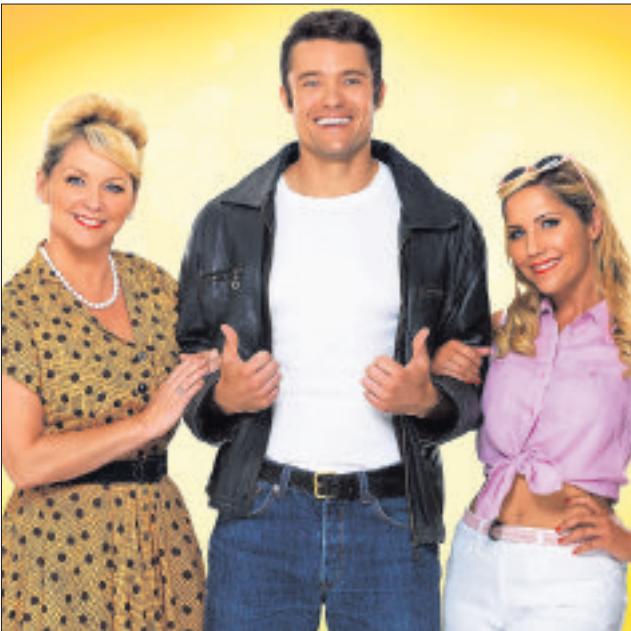
Dancing in the streets and venues at month-long festival

Happy Days are here again

HAPPY Days are here again for fans of the rock 'n' roll era US sit-com that introduced the world to the king of cool... The Fonze.

A musical based on the hit TV series, that first aired 40 years ago, is coming to Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday, April 22-26, after a run in London. Wearing the iconic leather jacket as Arthur Fonzerelli, a role made famous by Henry Winkler, is Emmerdale's Ben Freeman. Mrs Cunningham is played by Cheryl Baker, of Eurovision favourites Bucks Fizz, with Sugababe Heidi Range as Pinky Tuscadero.

As well as the memorable theme song, Happy Days A New Musical features 21 songs from Bugsy Malone songwriter Paul Williams. The story about a campaign to save Arnold's Diner was penned by the TV show's creator Garry Marshall.



Heyyy... the new-look Fonze Ben Freeman with Cheryl Baker and Heidi Range

THE Second City becomes first city of dance during the month-long International Dance Festival Birmingham 2014 from April 24.

The city hosts dance companies at various venues, and in the streets, with many events at Birmingham Hippodrome and DanceXchange's studio space The Patrick Centre.

The festival opens on Thursday with Birmingham Royal Ballet presenting a programme at the Crescent Theatre including world premiere works by Kit Holder and Alexander Whitley.

One of the biggest names will be sensational French dancer Sylvie Guillem with her only UK dates for 6000 Miles Away at the Hippodrome on May 6 and 7.

Other highlights at the Hurst Street theatre include Swiss company Alias with Sideways Rain (April 29-30); Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite's Kidd Pivot company presenting Shakespeare-inspired Tempest Replica (May 2-3); Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's collaboration with tango dancers in Milonga (May 23-24).

Dancers from the West Midlands will be involved when Matthew Bourne's New Adventures bring their vision of Lord Of The Flies from May 14 to 17. Breakdancers and hip hop music takes over when the Breakin' Convention is held on May 20 and 21.

Cas Public from Quebec join forces with Ex Cathena choir for Concert Danse at the Symphony Hall on May 2. Rising star of South Asian dance Aakash Odedra is in Murmur & Inked (May 6-7) at the Patrick Centre. Acrobatic Canadians Les 7 Doigts De La Main bring Sequence 8 (May 8-10) to Birmingham Rep.

One of the free highlights will be in Centenary Square at 3.30pm on May 10 when Maori performers lead a mass Haka war dance.

For details see www.idfb.co.uk website.



Symphony Hall's Concert Danse

Reckless rocker and Rea on road

TWO of the biggest names from the '80s music scene are back on the road and coming to Birmingham for arena shows.

Canadian rocker Bryan Adams will mark the 30th anniversary of his multi-million selling Reckless album with a concert at the LG Arena on Wednesday, November 19. The Reckless album included the huge hits Run To You and Summer of '69.

Singer-songwriter Chris Rea, who has moved more into jazz in recent years, brings his Last Open Road Tour to the NIA on Sunday, December 14. The maker of such hits as On The Beach, Fool (If You Think It's Over) and Let's Dance has a new album due out in September.

Hanging on for music nostalgia

THERE is plenty of musical nostalgia around for the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

Tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, Let's Hang On, is at Birmingham Town Hall tonight (Thursday), and That'll Be The Day revives hits from the rock 'n' roll era at Wolverhampton Grand tomorrow.

T Rextasy brings Bolan boogie to the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday, whilst a musical dedicated to T Rex, 20th Century Boy, opens at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre on April 28, before coming to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in June.



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CHOICE



Pop Goes BBC Two (BBC2, 10.30pm)

Just because BBC Two is celebrating its 50th birthday this weekend, doesn't mean it isn't still down with the kids. In fact, as this one-off special reminds us, the channel has always been at the cutting edge when it comes to music – while BBC One was bringing us Top of the Pops, BBC Two was home to live performances and album tracks on the Old Grey Whistle Test. This programme looks at 50 of the most iconic moments to emerge from the channel's musical output, from John Lennon reciting poetry with Dudley Moore on *Not Only But Also*, to Beyoncé headlining at Glastonbury in 2011. Other highlights include Joy Division's final TV performance, and the Stone Roses being hit with a mid-song power shortage on *The Late Show*.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **(R) 12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Formula 1 – Chinese Grand Prix: Qualifying Highlights. **2.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day one at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Film: *Shrek Forever After*. (2010) Animated comedy, with the voice of Mike Myers. **6.40** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **7.00** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a medical-themed edition, featuring past and present Casualty and Hollyoaks stars Sunetra Sarker, Paul Bradley, Ian McEwan, and Ian Bleasdale, as well as David Preston and Nichola McAuliffe, from the sitcom *St Trinian's*. They are joined by George Layton, who appeared in the 1969 Doctor in the House and its sequels, and a woman who really does know a thing or two about medicine – *The One Show's* resident GP Dr Sarah Jarvis. Who'll be best when it comes to being worst? **7.50** **The National Lottery: It's In to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz show in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, with Kate Garraway. **8.40** **Casualty.** Fletch attempts to build bridges between a feuding father and son following a car crash. Cal tries to impress Lily, and Jeff agrees to cover for Ash's daughter, Ella. **9.30** **The Guess List.** Julian Clary, Melanie C, Larry Lamb, Deborah Meaden and David Haye help contestants answer all sorts of everyday questions. Game show, hosted by Rob Brydon. **10.10** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Chelsea v Sunderland at Stamford Bridge and Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham; National Trophy Update. **11.50** **The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two. **1.10** Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 **This Is BBC Two.** **6.10** Film: *Sword of Sherwood Forest*. (1990) **7.30** Great British Menu. **(R) 8.30** Great British Menu. **(R) 9.00** Great British Menu. **(R) 9.30** Great British Menu. **(R) 10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** The Great British Bake Off: Easter Masterclass. **(R) 1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Further coverage of the opening session on day one. **2.30** **7.20** Sooth. **7.30** Scrambled. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 10.30** Dinner Date. **(R) 11.30** ITV News: Weather. **11.40** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. **(R) 12.10** Film: *Never Say Never Again*. (1983) James Bond adventure, starring Sean Connery. **2.40** Film: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. (2002) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe. **5.35** Regional Programme; **Weather.** **11.45** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.15** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.45** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **(R) 1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park and Kempton Park. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 4.40** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.10** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 6.15** Come Dine with Me. **Corset** – maker Serine Dau hosts the final night of the competition in Reading, Berkshire, hoping to impress with her burlesque-themed party and gourmet burgers. **(R) 6.45** Channel 4 News. **7.00** **Lent Diaries.** **7.05** **Grand Designs.** Colin Mackinnon and his partner Marta Brignos take on an ambitious project to build a bespoke metal home next to an airfield runway, designed by one of Scotland's most eminent architects and inspired by aircraft hangars. They have to contend with violent rain, snow, 100mph winds and the worst storms for a century, and the couple have to draw on their reserves of mental energy, as what was supposed to be a 12-month build heads into a third year. **(R) 8.05** **Hostages.** The day of the president's surgery arrives and as Blair's squad moves into position, the first lady finally sees through Ellen's deception and demands the truth. Last in the series. **9.00** **Film: Taken.** (2008) An American teenager travelling through Europe is abducted by a gang of sex traffickers. However, what the kidnappers do not realise is that the girl's father is a former CIA agent, who employs all his old skills as he searches for the criminals and tries to rescue his daughter. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson. **10.50** **Film: The Stone Roses: Made of Stone.** (2013) Premiere. Documentary in which film-maker Sean Meadows follows the band in rehearsals for their 2012 reunion concerts. **11.15** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** **Through the Keyhole.** Catherine Tyldesley and Terry Wogan join Dave Berry on the panel. **(R) 12.25** Jackpot247. **3.00** Dinner Date: Australia. **(R) 3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Dino Dan.** **6.10** **Dino Dan.** **(R) 6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **(R) 6.50** **Canimals.** **(R) 7.00** **Canimals.** **(R) 7.05** **Canimals.** **(R) 7.10** **Om Nom Stories.** **(R) 7.20** **Sooty.** **(R) 7.30** **Scrambled.** **9.25** **ITV News.** **9.30** **Murder, She Wrote.** **(R) 10.30** **Dinner Date.** **(R) 11.30** **ITV News: Weather.** **11.40** **The Crocodile Hunter Diaries.** **(R) 12.10** Film: *Never Say Never Again*. (1983) James Bond adventure, starring Sean Connery. **2.40** Film: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. (2002) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe. **5.35** Regional Programme; **Weather.** **11.45** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.15** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.45** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **(R) 1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park and Kempton Park. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 4.40** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.10** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 6.15** Come Dine with Me. **Corset** – maker Serine Dau hosts the final night of the competition in Reading, Berkshire, hoping to impress with her burlesque-themed party and gourmet burgers. **(R) 6.45** Channel 4 News. **7.00** **Lent Diaries.** **7.05** **Grand Designs.** Colin Mackinnon and his partner Marta Brignos take on an ambitious project to build a bespoke metal home next to an airfield runway, designed by one of Scotland's most eminent architects and inspired by aircraft hangars. They have to contend with violent rain, snow, 100mph winds and the worst storms for a century, and the couple have to draw on their reserves of mental energy, as what was supposed to be a 12-month build heads into a third year. **(R) 8.05** **Hostages.** The day of the president's surgery arrives and as Blair's squad moves into position, the first lady finally sees through Ellen's deception and demands the truth. Last in the series. **9.00** **Film: Taken.** (2008) An American teenager travelling through Europe is abducted by a gang of sex traffickers. However, what the kidnappers do not realise is that the girl's father is a former CIA agent, who employs all his old skills as he searches for the criminals and tries to rescue his daughter. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson. **10.50** **Film: The Stone Roses: Made of Stone.** (2013) Premiere. Documentary in which film-maker Sean Meadows follows the band in rehearsals for their 2012 reunion concerts. **11.15** Film: *Trainspotting*. (1996) **2.25** **Hollyoaks.** **(R) 4.30** **SuperScrimpers' Challenge.** **(R) 5.25** **River Cottage Bites.** **(R) 5.40** **Goodwood 72nd Members' Meeting.**

CHANNEL 4

6.10 **The Hoobs.** **(R) 6.35** **Trans World Sport.** **7.30** **FIM Superbike World Championship.** **8.00** **The Morning Line.** **9.00** **Fraser.** **(R) 9.30** **Fraser.** **(R) 9.55** **The Big Bang Theory.** **(R) 10.25** **The Big Bang Theory.** **(R) 10.55** **How I Met Your Mother.** **11.20** **How I Met Your Mother.** **11.45** **The Simpsons.** **(R) 12.15** **The Simpsons.** **(R) 12.45** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD.** **(R) 1.40** **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Haydock Park and Kempton Park. **4.10** **Come Dine with Me.** **(R) 4.40** **Come Dine with Me.** **(R) 5.10** **Come Dine with Me.** **(R) 6.15** **Come Dine with Me.** **Corset** – maker Serine Dau hosts the final night of the competition in Reading, Berkshire, hoping to impress with her burlesque-themed party and gourmet burgers. **(R) 6.45** Channel 4 News. **7.00** **Lent Diaries.** **7.05** **Grand Designs.** Colin Mackinnon and his partner Marta Brignos take on an ambitious project to build a bespoke metal home next to an airfield runway, designed by one of Scotland's most eminent architects and inspired by aircraft hangars. They have to contend with violent rain, snow, 100mph winds and the worst storms for a century, and the couple have to draw on their reserves of mental energy, as what was supposed to be a 12-month build heads into a third year. **(R) 8.05** **Hostages.** The day of the president's surgery arrives and as Blair's squad moves into position, the first lady finally sees through Ellen's deception and demands the truth. Last in the series. **9.00** **Film: Taken.** (2008) An American teenager travelling through Europe is abducted by a gang of sex traffickers. However, what the kidnappers do not realise is that the girl's father is a former CIA agent, who employs all his old skills as he searches for the criminals and tries to rescue his daughter. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson. **10.50** **Film: The Stone Roses: Made of Stone.** (2013) Premiere. Documentary in which film-maker Sean Meadows follows the band in rehearsals for their 2012 reunion concerts. **11.15** Film: *Trainspotting*. (1996) **2.25** **Hollyoaks.** **(R) 4.30** **SuperScrimpers' Challenge.** **(R) 5.25** **River Cottage Bites.** **(R) 5.40** **Goodwood 72nd Members' Meeting.**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** **10.00** **Access.** **10.05** **The Dog Rescuers.** **(R) 10.40** **Beverly Cowgirl Builders Abroad.** **(R) 11.40** **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** **(R) 12.40** **Film: Murder at the Gallop.** (1963) Miss Marple mystery, starring Margaret Rutherford. **2.20** **Film: Babibas.** (1961) Biblical drama, starring Anthony Quinn. **5.00** **Film: Columb.** Ashes to Ashes. (1998) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Patrick McGoohan. **6.40** **Longitude.** Wale fears drug producers are about to start a turf war in the region when a fisherman finds the bodies of a dealer and a hitman for a Mexican cartel in a remote creek. **7.30** **NCIS.** Gibbs and his team investigate the bizarre deaths of a marine and two of his friends at a stag party. Elsewhere, Gibbs tries to persuade Vance to allow Ziva back into the NCIS. However, she must first pass a barrage of psychological evaluations. Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette star. **8.25** **NCIS.** A blogger who accused the NCIS of a cover-up is found dead, and Gibbs and his team are forced to reopen a closed case to find the killer. However, state police suspect the special agents may have been involved in the murder and take control of the investigation. **(R) 9.20** **News Weekend.** **9.25** **Britain's Favourite Detectives.** A countdown of the nation's favourite crime solvers as voted for by Channel 5 viewers in an online poll. The list features those who work best alone such as Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot and Lt Columbo, as well as duo including Morse and Lewis and Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman's portrayal of Holmes and Watson in *Sherlock*. There are clips of the TV detective debuts of Pierce Brosnan (Remington Steele) and Bruce Willis (Moonlighting), alongside interviews with Alan Davies (Jonathan Creek), Felicity Kendal (Rosemary & Thyme), Prime Suspect creator Lynda La Plante, Phil Davis (Whitechapel) and Una Stubbs (Sherlock). **12.15** **SuperCasino.** **3.15** **Classic Car Rescue.** **(R) 4.00** **Wildlife SOS.** **(R) 4.25** **Make It Big.** **(R) 4.50** **The Funky Valley Show.** **(R) 5.00** **Angels of Jarm.** **(R) 5.05** **Roary the Racing Car.** **(R) 5.20** **Angels of Jarm.** **(R) 5.25** **The Funky Valley Show.**

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** **Top Gear Bolivia Special** **8.20** **Film: Toy Story 2** (1999) **9.50** **Russell Howard's Good News Extra** **10.35** **Family Guy** **12.30** **Family Guy: The Quest for the Truth** (2009) **1.30** **Film: In the Flesh** **3.50** **Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Fifth** **4.00** **Close** **BBC Four** **7.00** **Wild Wales** **8.00** **Chemistry** – A Volatile History **9.00** **Film: Downfall** (2004) **12.55** **Pavolpetri – The City Beneath the Waves** **12.25** **The Sky at Night** **12.55** **Solar Storms – The Threat to Planet Earth** **1.55** **Chemistry – A Volatile History** **2.55** **Wild Wales** **3.55** **Close** **ITV2** **12.15** **Britain's Got Talent** **1.35** **Britain's Got More Talent** **2.35** **Totally You've Been Framed!** **3.20** **The Vamps: The Hot Desk** **3.30** **Film: The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants** (2005) **5.50** **Film: Dungeons and Dragons** (2000) **6.20** **Britain's Got More Talent** **9.20** **Totally You've Been Framed!** **10.00** **Celebrity Juice** **10.50** **Crazy Beaches** **11.20** **Britain's Got Talent** **12.40** **Britain's Got More Talent** **1.40** **Fake Reaction** **2.15** **Dads 2.0** **James Arthur: The Hot Desk** **ITV3** **11.35** **Film: Carry on Cruising** (1962) **1.25** **Film: Carry on Matron** (1972) **3.15** **Film: Carry On Up the Jungle** (1970) **5.05** **Foyles War** **7.10** **Rosemary & Thyme** **9.20** **Doc Martin** **9.20** **Joanna Lumley's Greek Odyssey** **10.20** **Cold Blood** **11.50** **Rosemary & Thyme** **12.55** **Murder, She Wrote** **1.55** **Judge Judy** **2.15** **ITV3's Nightscreen** **ITV4** **11.00** **Live Indian Premier League Cricket**, Royal Challengers Bangalore v Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders v Delhi Daredevils. **8.00** **Ali: Still the Greatest** **9.00** **Film: The Boat That Rocked** (2009) **11.45** **Film: Monty Python's The Meaning of Life** (1983) **2.00** **Bedmorn** **3.00** **Teleshopping** **4** **2.00** **The Big Bang Theory** **3.00** **Rude(ish) Tube** **4.00** **Made in Chelsea** **5.00** **How I Met Your Mother** **6.00** **The Big Bang Theory** **7.00** **How I Met Your Mother** **8.00** **The Tomorrow People** **9.00** **Film: Snakes on a Plane** (2006) **11.10** **The Big Bang Theory** **12.05** **Party House** **1.10** **Broke Girls** **1.40** **Youngers** **2.35** **The Cabinet Show** **5** **11.00** **Anastasia** (1997) **1.00** **The Spy Next Door** (2010) **2.50** **Hope Floats** (1998) **5.00** **Aliens in the Attic** (2009) **6.40** **Iron Man** (2008) **9.00** **Bad Teacher** (2011) **10.50** **Goon** (2011) **12.40** **30 Days of Night** (2007) **2.50** **A Letter to Ella** **4.00** **Close**

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FRIDAY 18TH APRIL
THE TYLER JOHN SHOW
PLUS DJ SHANE

SATURDAY 19TH APRIL
CHARLIE WATERFORD
-ADELE TRIBUTE & ROCK CHIC
STARMAKERS DJ

SUNDAY 20TH APRIL
STARMAKERS KARAOKE

MONDAY 21ST APRIL
EASTER MONDAY CARVERY
4PM EASTER EGG HUNT
6.00-7.30PM CHILDRENS KARAOKE
9.00PM FUN QUIZ AND KARAOKE

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CHOICE

BBC1



Billy Bob Thornton

Fargo

(Channel 4, 9pm)
What made the 1996 Oscar-winning movie Fargo such a success? The script and direction by the Coen Brothers, the plot, and the outstanding cast all deserve their due, but for some viewers, the snowy Minnesota setting, and the contrast between the homespun friendliness and sing-song accents of the locals and the unfolding horror, was also a big part of the appeal. And it's that ambience which carries over into this new TV series, which keeps the location and mix of humour and murder, but introduces a new story and a fresh set of characters – played by an equally impressive cast. Billy Bob Thornton stars as Lorne Malvo, a malicious drifter, who enters the life of smalltown insurance man Lester Nygaard (Martin Freeman).

BBC2

6.00 Breakfast. **8.35** Match of the Day. (R) 10.00 Easter Worship from Leicester. 11.00 Urbi et Orbi. **11.35** Flug It! (R) 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 More Creatures Great and Small. (R) 2.30 Formula 1 – Chinese Grand Prix Highlights. **4.30** Escape to the Country. **5.00** Lifeline. **5.10** Songs of Praise. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R) 6.35 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 **Countryfile**. The team heads to the Isles of Scilly, where Ellie Harrison finds out about the problem of rats and the devastating effect they have on the local seabird population. She also visits the privately owned island of Tresco, to hear how a programme to eradicate the rodents affects the recently imported red squirrels. Matt Baker goes flying with ducklings – boarding a plane with 50 birds destined for a duck farm on Scilly – and back on the mainland, Tom Heap looks at the dangers involved in farming, as well as ways to make it safer, and Adam Henson visits a goat farm. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce and the team make a return visit to Polesden Lacey near Dorking in Surrey, in search of more family treasures. Curios on show include a painting of JW Turner's house on the banks of the Thames, a set of early board game designs and an instrument panel from a Lancaster bomber.

9.00 **The Crimson Field**. Thomas develops a system to help treat wounds, although Major Yelland is dismissive of the method and begins to bully the younger surgeon. Joan reveals a secret to a patient.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 **Match of the Day** 2. Norwich City v Liverpool, Hull City v Arsenal and Everton v Manchester United. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the Premier League matches.

11.35 **Live at the Apollo**. Kevin Bridges hosts the stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in London, introducing routines by Phillip Jupitus and Sara Pascoe. (R) 12.20 **Weatherview**. 12.25 BBC News.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) 6.25 Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Cannimals. (R) **7.00** Cannimals. (R) **7.05** Cannimals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.30** Film: Columbus Goes to College. (1991) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **1.10** The Unforgettable Youth Joyce. (R) **1.40** Big Star's Got Talent. (R) **3.55** Film: A View to a Kill. (1985) James Bond adventure.

6.20 **Regional Programme**; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather.

6.45 **Catchphrase**. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

7.30 **Off Their Rockers**. Velma gets racy in a photo booth, Sel needs a right to cure his hiccups and Rosemary eats some funny-tasting biscuits. Hidden-camera comedy with fearless senior citizens.

8.00 **Endeavour**. As plans to build a new police station lead Morse to question his place in the force, he investigates the case of Tommy Cork, a boy from a broken home who has disappeared. Meanwhile, the boy of disreputable journalist Eric Patterson has been found on railway tracks in mysterious circumstances. He was last seen embroiled in an argument with a council official about a company preparing to redevelop the site of Blenheim Vale, a disused correctional facility for boys. When a petty criminal with a connection to Blenheim absconds from an open prison, it sets off a chain reaction of events that threaten to expose horrors of the past. Did missing Tommy witness something that cost him his life? Last in the series.

10.40 **The Making of QI**. An insight into the production of the popular comedy quiz show in which host Stephen Fry awards points to contestants who provide interesting answers to his questions. (R)

11.40 **Snooker: The World Championship**. Highlights of the evening session at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, which featured the conclusion of the first-round matches.

12.30 **Snooker: World Championship Extra**. 2.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile. **3.25** Holby City. (R) **4.25** This is BBC Two.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Film: Hoot. (2006) **7.40** Film: Toy Story 3 (2010). **9.35** Russell Howard's Good News 10.05 Family Guy. **10.50** Swedish Death Suit. 11.20 American Dad! **12.05** Jamie's Private School Girl. **1.00** Russell Howard's Good News 1.30 Orphan Black. **3.00** In the Flesh BBC Four

7.00 Film: The Man in the White Suit (1951) **8.25** Film: The Happiest Days of Your Life (1950). **9.45** The Art of Tommy Cooper. **10.15** The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse. **11.45** Arena: Ken Dodd – Happiness 12.45 The Wonder of Bees, with Martha Kearney. **1.15** Imagine – Jimi Hendrix: Hear My Train a Comin'. **2.45** Jimi Hendrix: The Road to Woodstock ITV2

7.00 Film: You've Been Framed! Family Special **12.40** Film: Valiant (2005). **2.15** Film: Despicable Me (2010). **4.15** Britain's Got Talent 5.30 Britain's Got More Talent. **6.30** Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997). **9.00** Film: Quantum of Solace (2008). **11.10** Film: Hostage (2005). **1.35** Mom 2.00 The Vampire Diaries 2.45 Keisha: The Hot Desk. **2.50** Teleshopping

ITV3

7.15 Film: Carry on Follow That Camel (1967). **2.10** Film: Carry on Girls (1973) **4.00** Film: The Great Train Robbery (1966). **5.55** Inspector Morse **8.00** The Zoo. **9.00** Birds of a Feather **9.30** Vicious **10.00** Film: The Graduate (1967). **12.10** Cracker 1.20 Film: Carry On Girls (1973). **2.55** Movies Now 3.05 ITV3 Nightscreen 3.40 Emmerdale

ITV4

6.30 Police, Camera, Action! **7.00** Storage Wars 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Indian Premier League Cricket **10.00** Film: Unleashed (2005) **12.00** Film: Village of the Damned (1995). **2.00** Minder **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store 5.00 Teleshopping

E4

12.35 Made in Chelsea 1.35 Revenge **2.30** Rude(ish) Tube **3.30** The Big Bang Theory 4.30 How I Met Your Mother (2009) **5.30** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Independence Day (1996) **11.00** Rude Tube. Total Stunts **12.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.00** Rules of Engagement **2.00** Film: Total Stunts **2.55** Bob's Burgers

Film4

11.00 The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958) **1.00** Flash Gordon (1980). **3.10** The Towering Inferno (1974). **6.20** The Karate Kid (2010). **9.00** Layer Cake (2004). **11.05** Role Models (2008). **1.00** Underworld: Evolution (2006). **3.25** Close

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. **6.15** Eiffel and the Flowerots. **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Film: Thomas & Friends: King of the Railway – Thomas the Tank Engine. (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Small. **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** Lazy Town. (R) **9.55** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.30** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.05** Access. (R) **11.15** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.45** Film: Eragon. (2006) Fantasy adventure, starring Ed Speleers. **1.40** Film: Spider-Man 3. (2007) Superhero sequel, starring Tobey Maguire. **4.20** The Sound of Music Live! **7.00** 5 News Weekend.

7.05 Film: The Forbidden Kingdom. (2008) Premiere. An American teenager obsessed with kung fu movies is sent back in time to ancient China, where he joins the battle to free the imprisoned Monkey King. The only problem is he has no martial arts skills of his own, and will need the assistance of two legendary warriors to become the hero he needs to be. Martial arts adventure, starring Jet Li and Jackie Chan. Edited for violence and language.

9.00 Film: Act of Valor. (2012) Premiere. A team of elite Navy personnel is sent on a mission to rescue a kidnapped CIA agent. Their mission leads them to uncover a conspiracy between a Russian drug smuggler and a fanatic terrorist, and a plan to launch a devastating attack on the United States. Military adventure, starring Alex Veadov and Roselyn Sanchez. Edited for language.

10.50 Film: Punisher: War Zone. (2008) Premiere. The ruthless vigilante faces a battle to the death with a disfigured mobster. Action thriller based on the Marvel comic-book, starring Ray Stevenson and Dominic West.

12.55 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.05** Britain's Crime Capitals. A look at towns and cities in the UK most affected by crime, beginning with Liverpool. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. The big day arrives. (R) **4.45** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.35** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Film: Toy Story 3 (2010). **9.35** Russell Howard's Good News 10.05 Family Guy. **10.50** Swedish Death Suit. 11.20 American Dad! **12.05** Jamie's Private School Girl. **1.00** Russell Howard's Good News 1.30 Orphan Black. **3.00** In the Flesh BBC Four

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ITV3

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ITV4

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E4

12.35 Made in Chelsea 1.35 Revenge **2.30** Rude(ish) Tube **3.30** The Big Bang Theory 4.30 How I Met Your Mother (2009) **5.30** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Independence Day (1996) **11.00** Rude Tube. Total Stunts **12.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.00** Rules of Engagement **2.00** Film: Total Stunts **2.55** Bob's Burgers

Film4

11.00 The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958) **1.00** Flash Gordon (1980). **3.10** The Towering Inferno (1974). **6.20** The Karate Kid (2010). **9.00** Layer Cake (2004). **11.05** Role Models (2008). **1.00** Underworld: Evolution (2006). **3.25** Close

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HEALTH REGISTERED

Film Choices

MONDAY

Rocky Balboa, Channel 5, 11pm

The ageing fighter contemplates a return to the ring when a computer simulation reveals he would have defeated the current world heavyweight champion Mason "The Line" Dixon, who responds by challenging Rocky to face him for real. Boxing drama sequel, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. With Antonio Tarver, Geraldine Hughes, Burt Young, Milo Ventimiglia and Tony Burton. (2006)

TUESDAY

A Woman's Rage, Channel 5, 3.10pm

An obsessively jealous woman with a history of failed relationships is devastated when her boyfriend leaves her. She blames her younger sister for causing the break-up, and plans to get revenge by seducing her teenage son. Crime drama, starring Cynthia Preston, Brandy Ledford, Cameron Bancroft and Alex House. (2008)

WEDNESDAY

The Private Lives of Pippa Lee, BBC1, 11.45pm

A middle-aged woman married to a man 30 years older than her is shocked when he announces his intention to leave their New York home in favour of a retirement community. Driven to desperation by her dull new surroundings and her husband's affair with an even younger woman, she looks back on her wild youth. Drama, with Robin Wright, Alan Arkin and Winona Ryder. (2009)



Rocky Balboa, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

THURSDAY

Two for the Money, BBC1, 11.35pm

An American football player whose career is cut short by injury becomes the protege of a power player in the world of sports gambling because of his knack for predicting winners. For a time the former sportsman enjoys the life of a high-roller, but when his skill begins to falter, his mentor turns on him and the pair engage in a fraught game of con and counter-con. Drama, with Al Pacino, Matthew McConaughey, Rene Russo and Armand Assante. (2005)

FRIDAY

The Bourne Ultimatum, ITV, 10.35pm

Amnesiac rogue assassin Jason Bourne's long-buried memories are reawakened by a British journalist researching the secret organisation that was responsible for transforming him into a killing machine. Meanwhile, a ruthless CIA director becomes convinced Bourne is still a security risk, and plans to dispose of him once and for all. Third instalment of the spy thriller series, directed by Paul Greengrass and starring Matt Damon, Joan Allen, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Paddy Considine, Scott Glenn and Albert Finney. (2007)

Pick of the Week

Tommy finds himself caught in the middle

Could you see Shameless's Frank Gallagher as Tommy Cooper? Perhaps not, but David Threlfall has long had that chameleon-like ability to slip into any role, no matter how unlikely.

For a decade it seemed Threlfall was forever destined to play dole cheat Gallagher in Channel 4's hit drama. Thankfully over the last couple of years he has gone back to inhabiting a variety of real and fictional characters. Last year he was on top form as retired detective Len Harper in BBC drama *What Remains*. Now he's doing an uncanny take on Tommy Cooper in this drama paying tribute to the iconic magician and comedian who passed away 30 years ago this month.

It focuses largely on Cooper's relationships with two women – his wife Gwen (Amanda Redman) and Mary Kay (Helen McCrory), the assistant with whom he had a 17-year affair which only ended when he collapsed and died live on TV in 1984.

In the flesh, Threlfall is light years away from many of his more famous

creations. There's none of the hammy am dram thespian he played in *Hot Fuzz* (a film he still hasn't seen), and his ability to morph into Cooper for this drama is remarkable.

"It's his story from '67 to the night he died inclusively, and I guess the back story of what he was doing publicly and some of his private life," explains David. "What's nice about it is it's a period piece, and it nods to the people of a certain age who knew Tommy Cooper and either really liked him or worshipped him because he was a completely special one-off."

At 15 stone, and standing six foot four, Cooper was a unique sight on any stage. Despite being a skilled magician, it was his failed tricks that brought the house down. But off stage, his love of booze and subsequent poor health took its toll.

David was well aware of how important it was to give a faithful performance: "People use the word 'genius' too much, but I think you can apply it to (Spike) Milligan, you can apply it to Tommy Cooper... so no pressure at all trying to portray that," he laughs. "But I had a go. So there's

bits of his life at home and what he was all about, which was wanting to make people laugh." After making this drama, Threlfall was snapped up by Oscar-winning film-maker Kevin McDonald to work on submarine salvage drama *Black Sea*, which is released later in the year.

"I've sort of slipped back onto the variety bandwagon if you like," explains David. "I always like, if I can and people are willing to let me have a go, be pretty varied about the kind of work I get involved with, but I'm not one of these people that say, 'Well, I'm doing this now and I've got this lined up' and all that. There's no plans after I finish on *Black Sea*."

However, with a body of work including *King Lear* (with Laurence Olivier), and now one of the kings of British comedy, there's little chance of him settling for an early retirement just yet. "I've always been a working actor," he explains. "If a job comes up and people want me to have a go, that's what I do. 'If I can have a year where I can do what *Remains*, then Tommy Cooper, then a sub marinier in *Black Sea*, that's good and I'm happy and grateful for that."



Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This, Monday, ITV, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

24 Hours on Earth

BBC1, 7pm

Finally, the nights are getting that little bit longer, the weather is – sort of – brightening up a bit – it's the strongest hint yet that summer is well on its way. And while we maybe shouldn't get too far ahead of ourselves and start mentally packing our suitcases for our summer holiday, for the time being we're being treated to another brilliant documentary from the Beeb, about how nature and animals deal with this time of the year. It tells how the changing position of the sun in the sky affects the behaviour of animals and plants across our planet. The animals are alert; from the moment the sun rises, they're waiting, ready to take advantage of all the opportunities that come with it.

Jamaica Inn

BBC1, 9pm

It's Easter, so it should come as no surprise to find that the BBC is broadcasting a lavish costume drama. This time it's an adaptation of Daphne Du Maurier's novel *Jamaica Inn*, which stars former Downton Abbey resident Jessica Brown Findlay as Mary Yellan, who turns down a marriage proposal in favour of moving to Cornwall to live with her aunt Patience following her mother's death. Patience runs *Jamaica Inn* with her bullying husband Joss, a hard-drinking smuggler, just one of many locals who seem to live outside the law. Mary falls for his brother, Jem, but after witnessing a murder, has a tough decision to make about whether to report what she has seen.

TUESDAY

The Big Allotment Challenge

BBC2, 8pm

Last week, Fern Britton kicked off *The Big Allotment Challenge* by introducing the nine pairs of gardeners whose skills were about to be put to the test. One duo fell by the wayside after failing to impress during flower-arranging and jam-making tasks, so when we catch up with the gang again, only eight pairs remain. This week, they have to grow the perfect runner beans and roses, then use their produce to create summer wreaths and relishes. But who will come out smelling of, erm, roses, and who will end up in a sticky spot? Well, find out after horticultural expert Jim Buttriss, floral designer Jonathan Moseley and food writer Thane Prince have offered their opinions on the contestants' efforts.

New Worlds

Channel 4, 9pm

If you're basing your knowledge of Charles II on *Horrible Histories* (and there are definitely worse places to get your information from), you may be under the impression that he was the king who brought back partying. But as this historical drama has shown, not all of his subjects felt like celebrating under his reign. In the final episode, there's definitely a revolutionary spirit in the air in America as Ned (Joe Dempsie) returns to Hope (Alice Englert),

and tells her that he does want them to be together – but first they have to find a hiding place for Beth (Freya Mavor).

WEDNESDAY

Derek

Channel 4, 10pm

Viewers and critics were unsure of Derek when it was commissioned by Channel 4. Could Ricky Gervais, a comedian and writer who had made his name with *The Office* and *Extras*, pull off a gentle sitcom about a man who may have learning difficulties? But what Gervais has created is a moving story about a group of people living on the margins of society, with Derek the glue holding them together. The second run picks up a year after we last saw Derek and his friends. He's now fully reunited with his dad, who is moving into Broad Hill, the retirement home where Derek is a care worker. Tom and Hannah's relationship seems to have become serious, but a new volunteer is set to rock the boat...



Jamaica Inn, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

perfect choice for helming this new four-part series about the life-changing process of adoption – because he was adopted himself as a baby. For the purpose of this times emotional programme, cameras have followed parents desperate to adopt, and the children who need families – so that we can gain a rare insight into adoption in Britain today, and the impact it has on the lives of those involved. In this first instalment, we hear Nicky's story, before he meets Dan and Ania, who are desperate to adopt, and they receive information about two children needing a family.

FRIDAY

Weekend Escapes with Warwick Davis

ITV, 8pm

The actor takes his family to Norfolk, where they begin with a boat trip along the Broads, which are made up of more than 125 miles of waterways. Next, they cross the county to visit the seaside resort of Hunstanton, which gives Warwick the chance to participate in an RNLI training exercise. Then he persuades his wife and children to have a go at milking sheep at nearby Bircham Windmill, before ending the weekend at a local amusement arcade.

The Trip to Italy

BBC2, 10pm

Steve's assistant Kate joins him and Rob in Rome, where they also meet up with photographer Yolande before visiting the Keats-Shelley Memorial House museum. They go on to their next restaurant, where Emma has a bit of news for them, and Rob and Steve compete with each other doing Marlon Brando impressions.

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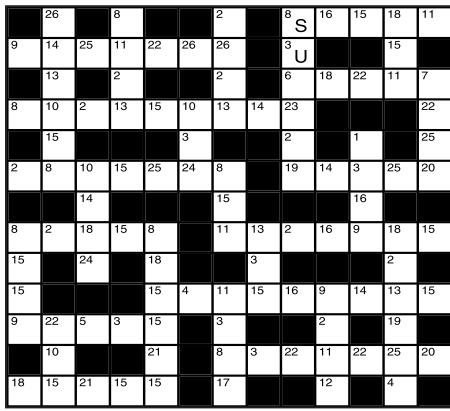
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
U	T	D	E	Y	G	F	B	M	N	W	K	V														
R	J	O	I	X	A	C	P	H	S	Z	L	Q														

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

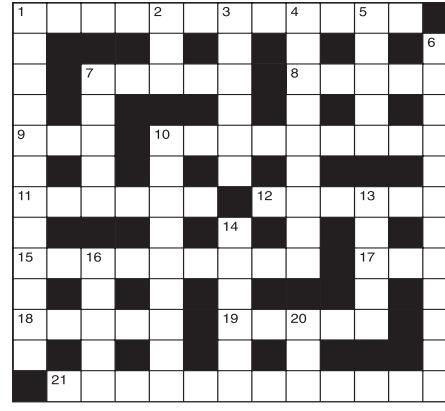
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Resolute due to threats, perhaps (5-7)
7. Not the best man in the stable? (5)
8. A belief in sacred office (5)
9. Boat propeller (3)
10. Could you mend a broken skate with it? (9)
11. Is hard, perhaps, but may be eaten (6)
12. Granting some misplaced ingenuity (6)
15. I'd put in now for a high position in society (9)
17. A politician concerned in current affairs (3)
18. A bonus for an actor (5)
19. Spring edition? (5)
21. They help people grow better (5,7)

Down

1. Song part here distributed to an office girl (12)
2. Also comes to nothing (3)
3. She and men get involved and become engaged! (6)
4. He gets what's coming to him (9)
5. Yet quoted as odds (5)
6. Swiss cantons, for example? (7,5)
7. Blush when attacked by a bull (5)
10. Use face stain to attract (9)
13. I am a long time getting the likeness (5)
14. Emotion felt when it appears to give you a break? (6)
16. Come in and start the entertainment (5)
20. The whole world finds it illuminating (3)
21. Untimely (12)



Sudoku

7	1	2		3				
5	6	3	1	4	9			
4						2		
6	4	2						
3	8	1	9				3	
			9					7
5								2
3	8	9	6					
7			5	4	8			

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	5	7	9	6	2	1	4	8
6	4	1	3	7	8	2	5	9
2	8	9	4	5	1	7	3	6
1	3	5	6	9	7	8	2	4
4	7	8	2	3	5	6	9	1
9	2	6	8	1	4	3	7	5
7	9	2	1	4	6	5	8	3
5	6	3	7	8	9	4	1	2
8	1	4	5	2	3	9	6	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Service; 8 Italia; 9 Diluted; 10 Little; 11 Entrap; 12 Sea-green; 18 Overpaid; 20 Retain; 21 Opener; 22 Inflame; 23 Teases; 24 Terrace Down: Airless; 2 Parallel; 3 Tiller; 5 Errance; 6 Vomits; 7 Cataract; 13 Sore; 14 Garnish; 15 Address; 16 Service; 17 Sailor; 19 Flipped; 20 QUICK - Across: 4 Disclose; 8 Openly; 9 Asinine; 10 Clever; 11 Appeal; 12 Decision; 18 Overcast; 20 Reveal; 21 Spring; 22 Quality; 23 Dilate; 24 Degrade Down: 1 Concede; 2 Defence; 3 Alters; 5 Instance; 6 Canopy; 7 Sundae; 13 Isolated; 14 Capital; 15 Stagger; 16 Refuse; 17 Seller; 19 Repair.

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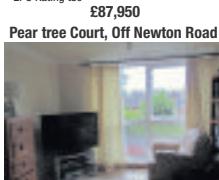
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Canalside home has lots of space for family



A DETACHED canal-side house packed with character features in Langley High Street, Oldbury, is spacious and ideal for a growing family. It is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £309,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance hall, a cellar, lounge and separate sitting room, large games room, dining kitchen, downstairs shower room, three double bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a detached garage with a storage room above.

Contact Taylors on 0121 4344345 or see www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



Five bedroom house is extended and detached



AN EXTENDED five-bedroomed detached house in Roebuck Lane, West Bromwich, which is ideal for commuting, is for sale through Samuel & Co at £239,950.

It has a porch, entrance hall, extended lounge and dining room, extended kitchen, cloakroom, study/gym, five bedrooms, a bathroom and gardens and a garage. The entrance hall has a Minton tiled floor, the lounge has a bay window, feature fireplace and laminate flooring, the kitchen with a gas hob, extractor fan, oven below and a further split level oven and ceramic floor tiling. The study/gym room has French doors to the garden and a tiled floor. Upstairs two of the five bedrooms have fitted wardrobes. The bathroom has a white suite with corner bath, wash basin, WC and there is a walk-in shower.

Contact Samuel & Co on 0121 5005111 or at www.samuelandco.co.uk



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HALESOWEN, Lusbridge close £1,000 pcm - Fees

An unfurnished detached house, in a very quiet cul-de-sac location. Briefly featuring 4 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, house bathroom with shower, large lounge, large fitted kitchen, conservatory, downstairs wc, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, garage and driveway parking. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Bromsgrove Road £875 pcm - Fees

Located in the desirable area of Romiley. This unfurnished semi-detached house features gas central heating, modern and spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, loft space, front & rear gardens, garage, fantastic views. Viewing strongly recommended. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Newton Court £750 pcm - Fees

A recently converted 3 bedroom 1st floor apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, 1 single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Nimmings Road £950 pcm - Fees

Large and terraced property close to Blackheath Town Centre & Rowley Regis Train Station. Featuring a spacious lounge, fitted kitchen/dining area, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, central heating, double glazing, rear garden with garage to rear of property - driveway parking for up to 3 cars. Available immediately. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Tinsley Avenue £950 pcm - Fees

A 3 bedroomed link detached house set in a cul de sac location close to shops and transport links. This property features guest w.c., lounge, fitted dining kitchen, master bedroom with en suite shower room, family bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, garage with driveway. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Wreyd House £925 pcm - Fees

Luxury living in Hayley Green. This luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Cherry Orchard Avenue £600 pcm - Fees

Situated in a well sought after location of Halesowen. This well presented 2 bedroomed semi-detached house features a large lounge, 2 double and 1 single bedroom, fitted kitchen with dining area, great size lounge, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking, garage to rear, front and rear gardens. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Middlefield Gardens £595 pcm - Fees

First floor apartment in Hurst Green. Set within well maintained residential area. This property features a large lounge, 2 double and 1 single bedroom, fitted kitchen, en suite bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking, garage to rear, front and rear gardens. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Victoria Road £575 pcm - Fees

An unfurnished terrace property, close to local shops in Blackheath, local buses, and not far from the M5 J2. This house features 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, huge dining kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, gas central heating, driveway parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, The Infield £550 pcm - Fees

Stunning and modern on a well sought after new estate. This top floor apartment features 2 bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes, large lounge with real dark wood flooring, superb high spec kitchen with built-in fridge/freezer and washer, dryer, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Not to be missed. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Old Bridge Walk £550 pcm - Fees

A spacious refurbished 3 bedroom house in quiet residential area. Large lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom suite with shower. Electric central heating, rear garden with off road parking. A lovely property not to be missed. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Hawne Court £525 pcm - Fees

Located in a quiet, desirable neighbourhood is this well kept ground floor apartment situated at the end of a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built-in appliances, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space, tarmac garage. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Cavalier Drive £525 pcm - Fees

Located within walking distance of central Halesowen. This modern unfurnished 3rd floor apartment, briefly comprising of: spacious living room with a door leading to your own balcony, comprising of: 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, communal gardens, allocated parking space. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Luarne Close £495 pcm - Fees

Situated in this popular residential area, is this top floor apartment, which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony, comprising of: 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, access to balcony from the master bedroom, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Well worth an inspection. EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, Coppice Road £485 pcm - Fees

A 2 bedroom semi-detached house recently fully refurbished on the Timberslee Estate. This house comprises of a front reception room, spacious rear lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Titford Lane £475 pcm - Fees

An unfurnished ground floor flat in a sought after location. Motorway links which is ideal for the 1st time renter. This lovely home features 3 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, good size lounge, house bathroom with shower, driveway parking, and low maintenance rear garden. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Albany Court £475 pcm - Fees

Unfurnished ground floor flat in a sought after location. Featuring 2 large double bedrooms, large living room, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower. Other benefits include electric storage heating, communal gardens, parking. EPC: TBC



BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive £475 pcm - Fees

This unfurnished end terraced property is in close proximity to both Merry Hill Shopping Centre and Brierley Hill. The property features 3 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, nice size lounge, fitted kitchen, allocated parking, small front garden. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Upper Ashley Street £395 pcm - Fees

An unfurnished maisonette which has been fully refurbished and is close to local shops and bus links. This lovely flat features electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, shower room, parking space. EPC: D



LYE, Summer Street £385 pcm - Fees

Situated close to local shops of Lye and Lye Train Station. This lovely 1st floor apartment which is being re-decorated features 1 double bedroom, brand new fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower off the taps, spacious lounge, allocated parking and large communal gardens. EPC: TBC



DUDLEY, Austin House £350 pcm - Fees

Modern re-furbished ground floor flat available, communal entrance, open plan lounge with kitchen, double bedroom and shower room. Electric storage heaters, newly fitted carpet, property alarmed, allocated parking, security light. EPC: D



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HALESOWEN

NEWBURY CLOSE

- Modern Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen/Breakfast Room Conservatory
- Four Bedrooms Master En-suite Family Bathroom
- Integral Garage Driveway Front and Rear Gardens
- Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

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QUINTON

QUINTON LANE

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom Separate W/c
- Block Paved Drive Large Rear Garden Double Garage To The Rear
- Internal Viewing Recommended

£185,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

WHITE ROAD

- Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Open Plan Kitchen Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Driveway To The Front Garden Double Garage To The Rear
- Internal Viewing Highly Recommended

£170,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON,

UPPER MEADOW ROAD

- Immaculate Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Kitchen-Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room Separate W/c
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Block Paved Driveway Large Rear Garden Garage To The Rear

£165,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

CHICHESTER DRIVE

- Modern Semi Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge/Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room Separate W/c
- Benefiting From A Gas Fired Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Garage Driveway Rear Garden

£159,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766



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LINKS ROAD

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen D'stairs Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens
- Large Plot To Side Of Property No Upward Chain

£140,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

MEHDI ROAD

- Modern Mid Town House EPC Rating C
- Lounge-Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Rear Garden Off Road Parking and Garage En-bloc
- No Upward Chain Viewing Highly Recommended

£135,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

ROOD END ROAD

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms Kitchen Downstairs Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms Upstairs W/c
- Walled Frontage Garden To The Rear
- Some Original Features Internal Viewing Recommended

£110,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



BARTLEY GREEN

FIELD LANE

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Through Lounge Kitchen Utility Area
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Block Paved Frontage Garden To The Rear
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing

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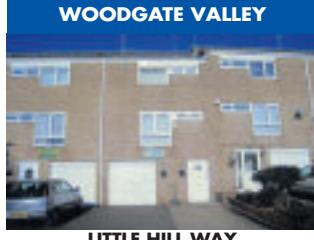


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DAVENTRY GROVE

- Well Presented First Floor Apartment EPC Rating D
- Through Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Fired Central Heating System
- Internal Viewing Recommended

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WOODGATE VALLEY

LITTLE HILL WAY

- Three Storey Mid Townhouse EPC Rating C
- Spacious Lounge Kitchen Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Wet Room W/c
- Integral Garage Drive Rear Garden
- Internal Viewing Recommended

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OLDBURY

SALOP ROAD

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Front and Rear Gardens No Upward Chain

£99,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

FARM ROAD

- Property Benefits From Double Glazing And A Gas Central Heating System
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Downstairs Bathroom Two Bedrooms
- Garden To The Rear Of The Property
- Internal Viewing Recommended

£97,500 QUINTON 0121 4217766

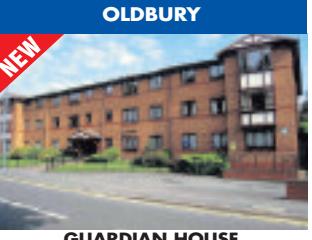


WOODGATE GARDENS

GUARDIAN HOUSE

- Mid Terraced Property EPC Rating C
- Through Lounge Kitchen-Diner Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Recently Re-furbished No Upward Chain

£99,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

GUARDIAN HOUSE

- First Floor Retirement Apartment EPC Rating C
- Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Shower Room
- Complex Benefits From A Lift, Security Entrance System On Site Manager
- Communal Gardens Non Allocated Car Park To The Rear
- Property Benefits From No Upward Chain

£59,500 QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

WHITE ROAD

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Downstairs W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Drive To The Front garden To The Rear
- Furnished Property Immediate Availability

£725 pcm QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

GLYN FARM ROAD

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Parking To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Immediate Availability

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WORLDS END LANE

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Downstairs W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Off Road Parking To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Immediate Availability

£675pcm QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

STONEHOUSE LANE

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Side Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear
- Set Back From Main Road On Service Road

£650 pcm QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

GLYN ROAD

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Drive Way To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Immediate Availability

£650 pcm QUINTON 0121 4217766



HALESOWEN

HOLT ROAD

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms Kitchen/Bathroom W/c
- Two Double Bedrooms Two Single Bedrooms
- Walled Frontage Garden To The Rear
- Accommodation Over Three Floors

£625 pcm QUINTON 0121 4217766



HALESOWEN

FALLOW WALK

- End Terrace Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Kitchen-Diner Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Double Glazed Garden To The Rear
- Immediate Availability

£525 PCM QUINTON 0121 4217766

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ARLA





Spring offers on Suzukis

Suzuki has chosen to put a spring in car buyers' steps with Alto, Splash, Swift and SX4 available under the brand's highly successful VAT-free campaign; which will run until the end of June.

The popular Alto SZ model will continue to be available from £5,999 which represents a £1,200 customer saving on list price. Splash 1.0-litre SZ2 is available from £7,999, Swift 1.2 SZ2 three door at £8,999 and the SX4 1.6 SZ3 available for £10,495.

Suzuki is also continuing its flexible PCP (Personal Contract Purchase) offers until the end of June. Alto SZ is available for a deposit of £869 fol-

lowed by one payment of £125 then 41 monthly payments of £99 with the option to pay a final balloon payment of £2,235 at the end of the agreement to keep the car.

Moving up the small car range to the Splash SZ2 1.0-litre, the latest PCP offer has a low deposit of £929 followed by 48 monthly payments of £125 and an optional final payment of £2,883.

The good news also continues for Swift buyers; as an example, the SZ2 three door at £8,999 remains available for a deposit of only £156 followed by 42 monthly payments of £156 and an optional final payment of £3,683. The PCP offers include the latest model Swift 1.3 DDIS which has CO2 emissions of just 101g/km and offers 72.4mpg on the combined cycle.

The SX4 S-Cross range is available from £14,999 and there are a range of finance options to help buyers find a payment option that suits them; including a new enhancement on Driveplan PCP making all DDIS models available for the same deposit and monthly payment as an equivalent petrol version.

Taking the 1.6 petrol SZ3 model as an example with its high standard specification, Suzuki is offering a low rate PCP of 4.9 per cent APR with £2,999 deposit, 42 monthly payments of £185 and optional balloon payment of £5,757. Move up the range to the SZ4 with Dual Zone automatic air conditioning, Bluetooth connectivity, front fog lamps and rear privacy glass as standard and payments are £10 per

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SEAT offers sporty route to get green credentials

By David Banner

If you thought all economy-minded cars were bland and boring, take a look at SEAT's Leon Ecomotive.

It retains a degree of fun yet will still return fuel consumption figures of 85.6mpg and emit just 87g/km of carbon dioxide. With prices starting at less than £20,000, it's not going to break too many budgets.

With this latest third generation car, the Leon once again feels like a quality product inside and out.

Power comes from a 1.6-litre TDI diesel, mated in this instance to a six-speed manual transmission the ratios of which are spaced for optimum efficiency.

This gearbox is a fundamental difference between the Leon Ecomotive and the standard Leon 1.6 TDI, which itself emits a very modest 99 g/km, but only gets a five-speed manual gearbox. Other changes over the standard Leon 1.6 TDI include a higher engine output, up from 105PS to 110PS, and the fitment of low rolling resistance tyres. The sprint to 62mph comes and goes in around 10 seconds, so the car isn't by any means sluggish, although the relatively narrow tyres aren't going to be the very last word in ultimate grip when cornering.

The chassis of the SEAT Leon is simple in its architecture with MacPherson strut front suspension, while the rear uses torsion beam suspension. As with the rest of the Leon range, a lot of work has gone into improving the car's refinement, with particular attention devoted to isolating engine vibrations and optimising airflow over the body at speed.

SEAT hasn't left too many stones unturned in its quest to optimise the fuel economy of the Leon Ecomotive. To that end, as well as the low rolling resistance tyres, it also gets a slippery body package comprising rear and side spoilers and the suspension is lowered by 15mm, while the radiator grille is unique to the Ecomotive. The effect is quite subtle though and you still get features like 16-inch alloy wheels, front fog lights with cornering function. Rest assured, it doesn't look like a penny-pincher's sort of car.

Prices start at just over £19,000 for the three-door SC coupe, with the five-door hatch tacking £300 onto those prices and the ST estate weighing in at around £20,500. That's not at all bad value for money compared with, say, a Golf TDI BlueMotion, which costs the best part of £21,000 in hatchback form. Just because you're paying less doesn't mean that this car has been ruthlessly de-contented either. The Ecomotive is based on the popular SE specification and as such, gets features such as a leather steering wheel and gear knob, air conditioning, electric windows all around (aside from SC versions), a Bluetooth hands-free phone system, SEAT's Easy Connect multimedia system, and a front armrest/storage box.

Get in quick and you may well find your car fitted with the otherwise optional Technology Pack, which endows it with full-LED headlights (including their distinctive strip-LED daytime running lights), satellite navigation and a DAB radio – so every medium-wave radio talk show rant can be enjoyed in crystal clear digital quality.

Consumption

The big draw with the Leon Ecomotive is its incredibly low day to day running costs. Fuel consumption is rated at 85.6mpg, while emissions are a super-low 87g/km. Both of those figures are better than you'd get from a Toyota Prius hybrid. But how does this MK3 Leon Ecomotive achieve a 12g/km improvement over the second-generation version, despite being more powerful? Well, it's largely achieved by a 90kg weight reduction and a 10 per cent improvement in aerodynamic efficiency. These changes help this car travel 11.3 miles further per gallon of fuel than the standard Leon 1.6 TDI, according to their respective combined consumption ratings.

As with every other model in the Leon range, this Ecomotive variant comes with an Energy Recovery set-up and a Start/Stop System, the former to capture and store brake energy otherwise lost as heat, which can be used to power electrical systems, and the latter to shut down the engine when the car is at a standstill, preserving fuel.

The SEAT Leon Ecomotive is a strong all-round package with little in the way of significant caveats. The pricing is tight, the economy and emissions are right up there with the best, residuals are looking rosy and you even get a choice of three well-equipped body styles with much-improved build quality. Show me how SEAT's going wrong there.

Okay, so if you buy into the whole SEAT sports thing, you might well find the Leon Ecomotive not quite as exciting as some other models in the range, but it's still a decent drive, certainly offering a good deal more involvement than a Prius. It depends on what you're looking for from family-sized eco-minded transport. If you don't want to make too many compromises from a 'normal' family car, the SEAT will be for you. If you want to look conspicuously green, choose a hybrid. One thing's for sure though. I'd back the Leon Ecomotive to win any such comparison when it came to three year running costs. We're always looking for ways to cut costs without affecting desirability. SEAT has the answer.



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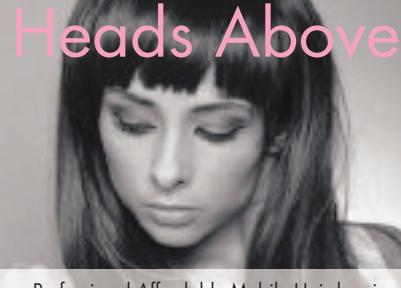
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George miss out by just 2 points

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Moor Lane 214
The George 211

THE George 1st team went to Moor Lane and just lost. They had two winners in the 1st four, Paul Greene and Phil Clinton both 21-19 but trailed by two shots.

Moor Lane stretched their lead to 13 shots after the middle four games, Steve Dicken (21-12) being the only winner for The George.

The back four put up a good fight and had wins by Elliot McGuinness (21-12) and Paul Hemming (21-15), but The George eventually fell short by three shots.

South Staffs Premier
The George 201
Victoria Park 185

The 2nd team entertained Victoria Park from Stafford. The scores were level after the 1st four, Keith Walton (21-14) and Martin McGuinness (21-16) for The George.

Despite a 21-1 win from Kevin Arnott The George didn't have another winner in the middle four and were behind by one. Captain Gary Peniket (21-2), Eric Winstone (21-11) and Lee Dicken (21-15), saw The George home.

On Sunday the Warley club will aim to be British Club Champions.

Pedmore power on for title

PEDMORE (131-2) beat Belbroughton (94-4)

The final week of the league at Edgecliff School, Kinver, saw champions Pedmore retain their unbeaten record.

Pedmore's opening batsmen made scoring runs look easy. Dave Skelding (23) and Dan Jones started at a rapid rate which was maintained by Sam Peruzza (26 no) Matt Porter (26 no) and James Burgoyne. Jones ran out Geoff Day and despite the efforts of Will Pardoe (28 no) Belbroughton could not stop Pedmore.

Matches between Old Swinford and Belbroughton and Enville 'A' and Swindon were cancelled. Ley conceded matches to Belbroughton and Swindon.

Hales can't recover from warm-up injury

Old Halesonians 14 Lym 32

A BUMPER crowd came to Wassell Grove on Saturday for the last game of the season.

But things started badly for Hales, who lost fly half Steve Powell in the warm up to a thigh strain. They were already without top scoring centre Andy Robinson with a thigh tear and skipper Richie Taylor with a fractured cheekbone.

Lynn played some dominant rugby from the off and punished every Hales mistake which resulted in tries. Hales were forced to defend their line, and limiting attack-

Rugby

ing options. Half time saw Hales trailing 7-9 thanks to a home try just before the interval from Simon Sabel, converted by Chris Hooper. Renewed effort saw Hales claw their way back into the game with a pushover try scored by Mark Evans, again converted by Hooper at 14-24.

This was followed by what seemed to be a try from hooker Pete Fitzgerald, which the referee deemed to be short of the line. Lynn once again took advantage, kicked

the ball clear for their backs to chase down and carry the length of the pitch for what was a decisive try 14-24.

This was followed by another excellent try from Lynn's backs who finished the game on a high with an additional penalty taking the final score to Hales to 14-32.

Hales squad and coaches were disappointed with the result but can take great comfort from what has been an excellent first season in national rugby finishing 4th.

Director of Rugby Gary Cox, coaches Mark Evans and Dan Lynne have done a sterling job with the players in what has

been a roller coaster season. Only on one occasion have they fielded a full squad. They now look to reassess and plan for next season. Team manager and president Simon Hussey said: "I am really proud of how the players have performed during a really tough season.

"To finish in fourth place out of 13 teams is quite an achievement.

"The rest of our club teams have also played some great rugby against strong opposition."

There were wins for the 3rds and the 4ths against Kidderminster opposition.

Wood block off win with late comeback

Walsall Wood 2 Tipton Town 2

AFTER going 2-0 down in 20 minutes, Wood staged a remarkable comeback, with Harry Harris scoring twice in the last 12 minutes to give them a share of the points.

Tipton edged the opening exchanges and on eight minutes a ball over the top of the Wood defence was collected at pace by Marvin Nisbett.

He raced into the left of the box and keeper Raajan Gill mistimed his challenge and the resultant penalty was tucked away by Danny Ashton.

Nisbett again got away on the left and his cross to the far post was agonisingly inches away from Callum Martin. With 20 minutes gone Nisbett was again causing problems wide left. His ball inside was collected by Ben Hadley, who looked offside, to run on and score with a low drive.

Three minutes later it should have been 0-3. Connor Gater racing away down the left before cutting inside and putting the ball on a plate for Ashton four yards out but he delivered the ball into the grateful hands of Gill.

Wood started to make inroads when on 29 minutes Lewis Taylor Boyce hit a low cross into the box, Joey Butlin stepped over the ball and Harris hit a low drive that was well held by James Pemberton.

With 34 minutes gone Deakin and Jamie Hawkins combined cleverly on the right but the cross was just too high for Harris, who could only glance a header wide. Two minutes later a powerful right wing run by Max Black saw his

Manager's delight as Yeltz side impress



Halesowen's No9 Rachel Letford gets the better of a defender during her team's victory over Wednesbury

Wednesbury 0 Halesowen 4

HALESOWEN are league champions after an impressive away victory at Wednesbury.

The Yeltz played Wednesbury, a young but solid side, and this was always going to be a tough game.

The Yeltz were 2-0 up within the first seven minutes. The first was when midfielder Haley Chatwin's through ball found Rachel Letford, who placed the ball past the oncom-

ing keeper. A minute later Chatwin found Sian Whithall on the edge of the penalty area. Her floating shot saw it go into the top of the goal above the stranded goalie.

On 27 minutes Chloe Harris passed the ball to Katie Moore and she found Letford, who let rip the goal of the game from 25 yards looping high above the keeper.

The second half got off to a flyer and within a couple of minutes Hale-

sowen were 4-0 up. A cross from Angie Morley found midfielder Sarah Hammil, whose deserved goal made the game safe.

Manager Scott McKee said: "Unfortunately for Wednesbury we were on a mission today. Fantastic effort by all the players."

"The league table doesn't lie and we are champions with a game to go. We are also in the semi-final of a cup too. We've had a great season."

Gala final proves tough for swimmers

TWO Halesowen teams travelled to Droitwich for the Worcester Winter League A and B finals on Sunday.

Both teams were depleted due to absences but all swimmers produced battling performances with the A team gaining fourth place.

Halesowen B also performed well and ended in an excellent third place.

In the A team double event winners were Josh Bradley and James Cuthbert in the butterfly and breaststroke. Other individual winners were Zach Collins in the backstroke and Mark Laing and Jack Simpson in the freestyle.

The age 13 relay team were unbeatable taking both the medley and freestyle with the team including Emma Bird, Kate Morrice, Lauren Hill and Jakob Baker.

The open team pulled off a great win in the final freestyle relay with the team including Eliza Bradley and Hannah Cuthbert.

B team double winner was Jacob Darby in the breaststroke and freestyle. Other event winners were Paige Robbins in the freestyle, Sian Carey, Sophie Parsons and Euan Vaughan-Hawkins in the backstroke, Luke Morris in the butterfly and Joe Smith in the breaststroke.

Craig gets shock call by Kiwis

FORMER Coombes Wood off-spinner Mark Craig has received a shock call up to the New Zealand squad for their three-Test tour of West Indies in June.

The 27-year-old, who spent two summers with the Halesowen club in 2005 and 2006, was the surprise inclusion in the Black Caps' 15-man party after Warwickshire spinner Jeetan Patel withdrew for personal reasons.

Craig, who plays for Otago, took 43 first-class wickets at 42.88 in the domestic season in his homeland.

Craig is one of two uncapped players in the squad and coach Mike Hesson said: "Mark has had a strong Plunket Shield."

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Albion to bounce back – boss

SHELL-SHOCKED Pepe Mel has backed Albion to bounce back and secure Premier League survival despite their latest giveaway.

The Baggies squandered a 3-0 lead to draw 3-3 with Tottenham on Saturday and pass up the chance to move within a whisker of clinching survival. But he insists his players will recover.

But Mel did admit several were exhausted at the final whistle.

"The players keep raising themselves," he said. "Three, four or five players are very, very tired. Claudio Yacob, for example, and Chris Brunt had very good games because they had good games out and were like new players."

"The biggest job now that the technical team has is to lift the players. They have done well. They deserve to have more points."

The Baggies now face a daunting Easter Monday trip to Manchester City before taking on West Ham, Arsenal, Sunderland and Stoke in their last four matches. And Mel insisted his side have the fixtures in their favour.

"Firstly, we don't consider we will lose to Manchester City," he said. "If we keep doing things in the way we have then things will go for us. We've won two and drawn two of the last five."

Runners take on marathon

AFTER months of training athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club tested themselves on the biggest stage of all by taking part in Sunday's London Marathon. DK runners made up 16 of the 36,000 strong field.

First back was Dave Norman in 3:12.19, then Lorna Hulme, 3:21.24, Matt Biggs, 3:23.26, Graham Wildgoose, 3:23.51, Mark Homer, 3:26.10, Simon Hughes, 3:26.24, Mark Judge, 3:35.06, Andy Litchfield, 3:43.23, Liz Hettle, 4:16.03, Karen Doy, 4:18.02, Dave Garbutt, 4:26.09, Janetta Sanders, 4:48.10, Natalie Litchfield, 4:51.15, Helen Williamson, 4:53.09, Sam Hemming, 5:23.55 and Laura Evenson in 5:34.51.

Club chairman Mick Quane completed the Rotterdam Marathon in 3:31.58 with Catherine Quane in 3:57.08.

Heathens power to record-breaking total

CRADLEY kicked-off their National League title defence in perfect fashion as they romped to a record-breaking 68-21 victory at Scunthorpe.

Just a few days after equalling their club record win with a 69-23 triumph over King's Lynn, the in-form Heathens went one better on Sunday with an emphatic victory by an unprecedented 47-point margin.

Taking on an inexperienced Scunthorpe side, the Monmore Green outfit were always expected to take a comfortable win.

Yet team boss Will Pottinger was thrilled to see his side put in a professional display

Speedway

to cruise to all four National League points as they begin their defence of the title they won so spectacularly in 2013.

He said: "Everyone was very professional with the excellent job they did – all the riders scored well and there could be no complaints with the performance in the end.

"It's always nice to kick off your league campaign with a win and all four points as well."

"We know we are going to have tougher tests ahead but everyone is feeling confi-

dent at the moment – we've started the season well and feel like we can have another good season."

Heat leader trio Paul Starke, Steve Worral and Tom Perry all struck effortless maximums for the visitors – whilst they received fantastic support from all quarters thanks to a magnificent team performance.

Teenage ace Nathan Greaves came within a whisker of a maximum of his own – suffering his only defeat as he made a well-deserved heat 15 appearance – whilst Max Clegg put in a strong showing in the engine room of the Cradley side, continuing

his blossoming partnership with Perry.

Reserve duo Danny Phillips and Matt Williamson also continued their encouraging form to complete a classy showing on the road for the rampant Heathens.

The visitors eventually struck ten 5-1s out of 15 races and accounted for 14 race winners as they stormed to the Heathens' biggest victory since the reformation of the club in 2010.

SCUNTHORPE 21: Sam Chapman 12, Steve Jones 3, Adam Extance 3, Sam Woods (no.8) 2, Ryan MacDonald 1, Jordan Kirby 1, Tom Sanderson 0, Alan Mogridge r/r.

CRADLEY 68: Tom Pott 15, Nathan Greaves 11+2, Paul Starke 11+1, Steve Worral 10+2, Matt Williamson 9+1, Max Clegg 7+2, Danny Phillips 5+3.



Champions

Manager's delight as his side impress

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email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Cradley riders miss out

CRADLEY duo Tom Perry and Nathan Greaves both endured disappointing nights at the British Under 21 Championship at Monmore Green on Tuesday.

Perry just missed out on a semi-final spot despite a determined effort and Greaves twice hit the deck before being forced to withdraw from the meeting.

The teenage ace was due a precautionary trip to hospital for checks on a thumb injury as he looks to be fit for the Heathens' trip to Coventry on Easter Monday.

The event, which was staged by Cradley, was won by Josh Bates (Sheffield/Mildenhall).

Wolverhampton pair Joe Jacobs and Ashley Morris put in strong showings before bowing out at the semi-final stage.

Pre-meeting favourite Kyle Howarth narrowly missed out on the semi-finals following a tough night. Former Heathens favourites Dan Greenwood, Jack Kingston, James Shanes and Marc Owen were always in the thick of the action although unable to challenge the leading pack as Britain's brightest young talents but on an entertaining show.

Rangers in 4-goal romp

Black Country Rangers 4 Sporting Khalsa 1

KHALSA took the lead of this West Midlands Regional League on Tuesday but conceded three late goals in the first half.

Rangers' keeper pulled off some excellent second half saves before Khalsa had a man sent off. Rangers scored with a late penalty.

Mongan battles his way to be new champion



Pleased as punch – new England Schoolboys Champion Jerry Mongan shows off his prizes

NEW England Schoolboys champion Jerry Mongan has been told his national title is the hardest-earned by any fighter from Priory Park Boxing Club, writes *Craig Birch*.

The Dudley gym had turned out 11 national champions before this month, with Mongan having to fight tooth-and-nail to make it a dozen.

The teenage traveller, who is home schooled, nudged a split decision at the Huddersfield Sports Centre in

the 54kg category of Class B, for boxers born 2000.

Victory over Pinewood's Wayne Owen took the 14-year-old all the way to the delight of trainers Warren Davis and Peter Upton, along with brother Michael, in his corner.

Davis said: "We are all really chuffed for Jerry and out of all the national titles we have won as a club, I think this one was the hardest earned. He's done really well, he's

had some tough opponents from good clubs and he had to box three times just to get past the Midlands rounds.

"Then we had pre-quarter, quarter and semi-finals, all away from home and all over the country, so he's really had to pull out all of the stops."

Trainer Davies believes his young prodigy has come on leaps and bounds during his second stint in the competition. "He's not the finished article yet, as he's only 14."



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